**Bath Veterinary Hospital**

**POB 388**

**Bath NY 14810**

**607-776-7685**

**Collecting a urine sample at home**

Our office has asked you to bring in a urine sample from your pet to aid in the diagnosis of a medical condition or to monitor an ongoing condition. To be of the most value and a true reflection of the health of your pet, follow these guidelines:

1) Fresh, fresh, fresh - To provide us with the most accurate information about your pet's health, a

 urine specimen should be analyzed within an hour of leaving the body. After that the sample

 begins to change in ways that may not truly reflect what’s going on inside the pet. Sometimes

 refrigeration is necessary, but this is always second best.

2) Clean, clean, clean - Use very clean containers to collect and transport samples. If you are

 re-using a food or medicine container, please wash, rinse thoroughly and completely dry the

 container. Food, oil or other residues can adversely affect urinalysis results.

3) Timing of the urine collection - Sometimes we will ask you to bring a sample from a specific

 time of day or situation, such as the first urine of the morning. Please ask us if we have failed

 to specify.

4) Contamination - Try to avoid contaminants as much as possible. Common sources of

 contamination are dirt, grass, cat litter, snow, rain and stool. Please let us know if your sample

 may contain any substances that have accidentally gotten into the sample.

How to collect a urine sample at home:

Dogs - Take your dog outside on a short leash to keep it close. Hint – females are more difficult to collect from and are most likely to provide a sample first thing in the morning as their bladder is at its fullest then. Have ready in your hand the urine collection device. This device can be any container that is bowl shaped such as a ladle, shallow cereal bowl, or small foil pie pan. Something with a lip or handle will make it easier to hold. Take your dog to its regular elimination area. Wait patiently; your dog may be hesitant at first to urinate with you close by, but most pets get over their shyness. When the dog postures, carefully slip the urine collection device under the appropriate area. Collect all the urine you can but be careful that your dog doesn’t step in the pan afterwards. Carefully pour the urine in the transport container. Label with your name, your pet’s name, the date and time. Bring the sample to our office immediately.

Cats - Prepare the litter pan by emptying it completely. Scrub the pan thoroughly and dry completely. Pour the No-Sorb litter beads or other NON-absorbent litter into the clean pan. Confine the cat by itself to a room or small space with this litter pan. Leave the cat in the confined area until it urinates in the pan. You may need to provide food and water in the space as well. This process can take many hours. As soon as the cat is through urinating, pour the urine into a clean container and bring it immediately to our office.

We realize that collecting a urine sample from your pet can be difficult and messy. As an alternative to at-home collection, we can hospitalize your pet for urine collection. We are also happy to assist with urine collection at our office. A urinalysis can provide your veterinarian with important and vital information concerning your pet. With a little effort, we can gather this information and proceed with keeping your pet happy and healthy.