



# **Serum Follicle Stimulating Hormone**

**Type of Hormone:** Protein

### **Purpose of Test:**

To determine serum concentration of FSH in order to obtain information about reproductive function. Reasons to perform a FSH test vary with the species and include:

- check for neuter/spay status
- aid in diagnosis of reproductive disorders

## **Description of test and procedures:**

The test is a radioimmunoassay performed with in-house reagents. The radioimmunoassay technique is based on the competitive binding of the serum FSH and a radiolabeled FSH preparation. They compete for binding to an antibody specific for FSH. The antibody-bound radiolabeled FSH is separated and the quantity is determined by counting on a gamma spectrometer. Results for the unknown are read from a curve prepared by plotting results for a set of known standards. Serum with a pre-determined concentration are included in the assay for quality control purposes.

**Sample Needed and Procedures for Submittal:** Submit at least 1mL of serum on a cold pack. *It may be possible to perform this analysis with less serum, but laboratory approval is required.* 

### **Schedule For Running Test:**

Assay preparation begins Wednesday morning and results are reported the following Monday afternoon.

#### **Interpretation of Results:**

Results should be interpreted by a veterinary clinician or researcher familiar with reproductive function in the species being tested.