

Using Ammonia Slides (NH₃-P) on DRI-CHEM® Analyzers

Reference Ranges

Dog	Cat	QN Control
10–80 µg/dL	10–135 µg/dL	56–102 µg/dL

Sample Handling

The NH₃-P DRI-CHEM slide is for use with fresh plasma only. The following guidelines are provided to ensure accurate results.

1. It is recommended to use commercially available lithium heparin blood tubes for sample collection, such as the green top tubes available for the DRI-CHEM Analyzers (CAT 6344). Approved anticoagulants consist of sodium or lithium heparin (<50 units per ml).
2. Centrifuge the sample as soon as possible after collection and separate the plasma. If using a green top tube, it may be placed immediately in the analyzer after centrifugation for analysis. Ammonia concentrations increase with time, especially when kept as whole blood. It is recommended to analyze the sample within 30 minutes of collection. If a delay in analysis cannot be avoided, chill the sample on ice.
3. Do not use serum. Ammonia is released during the clotting process and will give falsely elevated levels.
4. Do not use hemolysed plasma. Red cell lysis will release ammonia and give falsely elevated levels.

Ammonia Control (QN)

A separate control for the NH₃-P slide is provided. The QN control should be used as part of Heska's TrueQC™ Controls program which meets the recommendations for in-hospital quality control programs. Heska recommends running QN control under one of the following plans:

1. Analyze the QN control on an NH₃-P slide once every day a patient sample is evaluated for ammonia levels.
2. Analyze the QN control at a specified interval that fits with the established standard operating practice of the clinic or lab (daily, weekly, etc.).