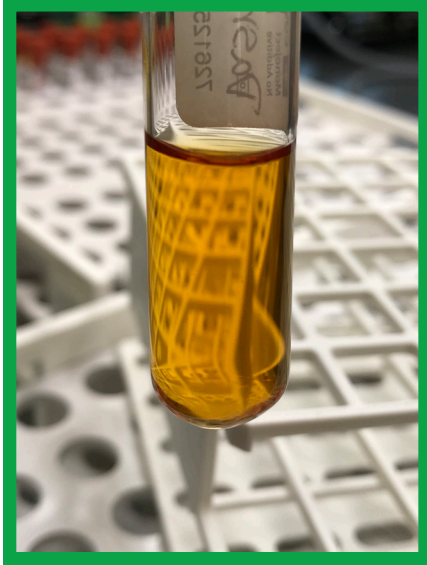
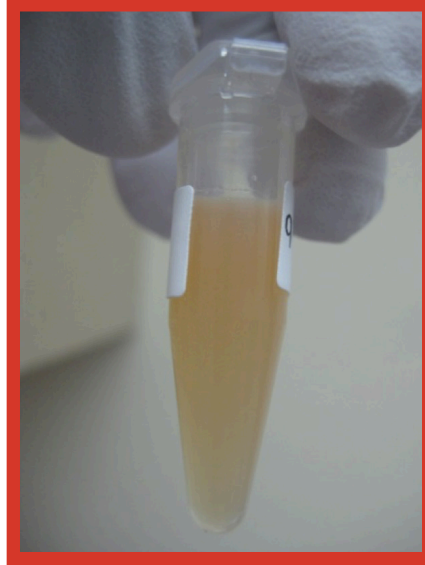


Serum Sample Guidelines

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) performs numerous tests using serum. Proper collection, preparation, and packaging for transportation is imperative to obtaining a quality serum sample. Serum samples that arrive at TVMDL which are hemolyzed and/or lipemic may not be acceptable for testing. Accurate results start with an ideal sample.



Ideal sample: Clear in appearance and light yellow to straw-like color.



Poor quality sample: Cloudy or milky in appearance. Most often due to lipemia and may not be acceptable for testing.



Poor quality sample: Pink to red in appearance. Sample is hemolyzed and may not be acceptable for testing.

Additional Guidelines

Utilizing proper collection techniques, allowing sample to clot for 20-30 minutes, centrifugation, and promptly removing the serum from the clot will help ensure a good quality sample.

Samples shipped on the clot run a high risk of yielding a hemolyzed serum sample resulting in the sample being untestable or having altered chemistry values.

It is critical samples be shipped with a cold pack and in an insulated container for overnight delivery. Samples that get warm can grow bacteria, which means a sample that was good when collected could be unacceptable on arrival.