

Progesterone & Luteinizing Hormone (LH) Testing Protocol Summary

- Within the first 5 days of Proestrus, take a progesterone reading to determine a baseline level.
- At 50% cornification, or around the 4th or 5th day of Proestrus, start doing LH testing daily and progesterone testing every other day.
- A positive Status-LH[®] test result indicates the LH level in the sample is > 1 ng/ml. During this peak, progesterone levels are about 1.5 – 2.5 ng/ml. Around this time the progesterone level will be increasing and on the OVUCHECK[®] Premate kit, the color of the sample well will be approaching the color of the A well.
- The day of the LH surge is counted as Day 0. The surge will last approximately 24 hours and triggers ovulation. Ovulation occurs 2 days after the surge. The fertile period is 4 – 7 days post-LH surge and lasts 48 – 72 hours.
- Do another progesterone test 2 – 4 days post LH surge to be sure that the progesterone level is indeed increasing, thus confirming that ovulation has occurred.

Progesterone Only Testing Protocol Summary

- Progesterone levels from OVUCHECK[®] Premate and commercial labs will vary. The key is to get a baseline reading and see an increase from that level to know that the bitch is ovulating.
- Within the first 5 days of Proestrus, take a progesterone reading to determine a baseline level.
- At 50% cornification, or around the 4th or 5th day of Proestrus, start doing progesterone testing every other day.
- Around the time the LH surge is occurring, the progesterone level will be increasing to 1.5 – 2.5 ng/ml so the color in the sample well will be fading and approaching the color of the A well.
- The day the color of the sample well matches the A well, progesterone has risen above 2.5 ng/ml, ovulation has probably occurred, and breeding may commence within 48 – 72 hours (depending on the type of breeding to be performed).
- When the color in the sample well matches the B well, the progesterone level has risen to 10 ng/ml. During peak fertility, the progesterone level is between 5 – 20 ng/ml, on the average.
- Progesterone will continue to rise and remain elevated for 2 – 3 months in both pregnant and non-pregnant dogs.