

# Using the IDEXX VetAutoread™ Hematology Analyzer

## Sample Selection and Preparation

The IDEXX VetAutoread™ analyzer is designed to analyze whole-blood samples. Good sample collection and preparation are necessary for optimum results on the IDEXX VetAutoread™ Hematology Analyzer.

Please refer to your IDEXX VetAutoread™ Hematology Analyzer Operator's Guide for complete instructions.

## ■ Whole-Blood Sample Collection

<p><b>1.</b> Use the appropriate tube (EDTA for canine, feline or equine blood, and sodium citrate for bovine blood).</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Use the appropriate sample-collection devices.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Dispense the sample into the proper tube and fill to the manufacturer's specifications (generally 1/2 to 3/4 full). Do not depress the plunger forcefully. If using a syringe, remove the needle.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Gently invert the tube for 30 seconds (at least 10 times) to mix.</p>

## ■ Preparation of an IDEXX VetTube™

<p><b>1.</b> With the nozzle pointing away from you, unlock the pipettor by twisting the barrel clockwise. Insert the tube end with green lines into the barrel. Lock it in place by twisting the barrel counterclockwise.</p>	<p><b>2.</b> If the sample sits between transfer into the EDTA tube and drawing into the IDEXX VetTube, gently invert the tube for 30 seconds (at least 10 times) to mix. For bovine samples, refer to the bovine-specific sample preparation kit.</p>	<p><b>3.</b> Depress and hold down the plunger. Insert the acridine orange-coated end of the tube into the middle of the sample. Release the plunger smoothly. Ensure that the blood reaches the 111-µL black fill line.</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Lift up the pipettor. Wipe the outside of the tube surface with a lint-free wipe. Insert the tube end into the cap in the tray. Secure by twisting the pipettor a half-turn.</p>	<p><b>5.</b> Hold the pipettor horizontally and unlock the barrel by twisting it clockwise. Gently remove the tube.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Hold the tube horizontally and roll it between your fingers for at least 30 seconds to ensure adequate staining.</p>	<p><b>7a.</b> Insert the float. Hold the tube horizontally and slide it over the tip of the float. Hold the tube close to the green lines, lift the tube and dislodge the float from the slot. Touch the tube end against the back of the tray. NEVER TOUCH THE FLOAT WITH YOUR FINGERS.</p>	<p><b>7b.</b> Alternate method: Use forceps to insert the float.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> Centrifuge the tube in the IDEXX VetCentrifuge™ for 5 minutes. Make sure to balance the centrifuge with another tube directly opposite the sample. Ensure that the centrifuge cover is properly fastened. (Bovine samples should be spun twice with a three-minute wait in between to ensure cooling of the centrifuge.)</p>	<p><b>9.</b> Promptly remove the tube. Wipe the tube to make sure that it is clean from blood or fingerprints. Ensure that the plasma level is between the two green lines. If not, discard the tube and prepare a fresh tube.</p>

## ■ Running a Test

	<p>After the patient information is entered, place the tube in the IDEXX VetAutoread™ Hematology Analyzer and close the lid. Wait for the results.</p>
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## ■ Tips for Best Practices

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the sample within four hours of collection.</li> <li>• Discard severely hemolyzed, lipemic or clotted samples.</li> <li>• Do not use expired tubes.</li> <li>• Use lint-free wipes to remove any blood or fingerprints from the outside of the tube.</li> <li>• Run the calibration rod daily.</li> </ul>
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**NOTE:** It is recommended that automated hematology differentials be complemented with a blood film for proper identification of abnormal cells and morphology.

Practice what's possible®



For technical assistance, call:  
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