

Catalyst Ammonia (NH₃) Test

Quick Reference Guide

Storage and sample handling requirements

- + Store in the freezer (do not store in the freezer door).
- + No warming required—run directly from the freezer.
- + Catalyst™ NH₃ tests can be stored at room temperature for up to 8 hours. After 8 hours, NH₃ tests can be returned to the freezer up to 5 times, as long as the foil pouch is unopened.
- + Catalyst NH₃ test results can be impacted by exposure to ammonia sources, such as previously run slides in the Catalyst chemistry analyzer's waste drawer and/or sources of ammonia in your laboratory. Always empty the waste drawer prior to running an NH₃ test and avoid using ammonia-based cleaners, hand creams, organic solvents, ink markers, sprays containing volatile liquids, insecticides, disinfectant, polish, smoke residue, or room freshener on or around the analyzer.
- + Sample volume required:
 - Whole blood: 0.7 cc (700 µL)
 - Plasma: 100 µL (65 µL minimum; 300 µL if running with other tests)

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer						
What sample types can be run on the NH ₃ test?	Compatible sample types include lithium heparin-treated plasma and whole blood using the Catalyst™ Lithium Heparin Whole Blood Separator. Avoid hemolyzed samples. Notes: + Be sure to minimize the sample's exposure to air. All sample containers should be capped unless the sample is being introduced or withdrawn. + Serum samples are not supported as ammonia is released during the clotting process which can artificially elevate NH₃ results.						
Which species have been validated for the NH ₃ test and what are the numerical results?	<table> <tr> <th>Species</th><th>U.S. Units/ S.I./French S.I. Units</th></tr> <tr> <td>Canine and feline</td><td>0–950 µmol/L</td></tr> <tr> <td>Equine</td><td>0–700 µmol/L</td></tr> </table>	Species	U.S. Units/ S.I./French S.I. Units	Canine and feline	0–950 µmol/L	Equine	0–700 µmol/L
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Can the NH ₃ test be run with other tests?	Yes! The test can be run alone or with other tests as part of a comprehensive patient profile. For example, you could run a Catalyst™ NH ₃ Test, Catalyst™ Lyte 4 CLIP, and any other Catalyst chemistry CLIP with one patient sample.						
When running with other slides, should the NH ₃ slide be loaded in a particular order?	+ The NH₃ slide should be loaded first. + When running the NH₃ test with electrolyte slides, always load the electrolyte slides second. + For the quickest time to results, the recommended load order is NH₃ slide on the bottom, then the Lyte 4 CLIP, any other chemistry CLIP, any additional slides, and TT₄ on top.						
What is the run time for the NH ₃ test?	Catalyst NH ₃ results are available ~8 minutes after the start of the run.						
Is it okay to dilute samples that are undergoing NH ₃ testing?	IDEXX does not support the use of diluted samples when running the NH ₃ test.						
How often can NH ₃ tests be left at room temperature and then returned to the freezer?	Once at room temperature, NH ₃ tests can be returned to the freezer up to 5 times as long as they are unopened.						
What if an NH ₃ test is accidentally refrigerated?	Any test suspected of having been stored in the refrigerator should be discarded.						

NH₃ made simple—load and go

