Serum collection

1. To separate serum, allow blood in red top collection tubes (“Vacutainer”) to clot at room temperature, undisturbed for a minimum of 30 to a maximum of 60 minutes.

2. Remove clot by centrifugation at 1,000-1,500 x g for 10 minutes using a refrigerated centrifuge.

3. Following centrifugation, immediately transfer the serum into sterile polypropylene tubes (preferably 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes). Aliquot serum in 100 μl portions, and clearly label each tube with the animal ID and date of collection.

4. The samples should be maintained on wet ice during handling.

5. If the serum sample is not analyzed immediately, it should be stored at –80°C.

Plasma collection

1. To separate plasma, centrifuge immediately after collecting blood in tubes containing sodium EDTA anticoagulant.

2. Separate plasma by centrifugation at 1,500 x g for 10 minutes using a refrigerated centrifuge at 4°C.

3. Following centrifugation, immediately transfer the serum into sterile polypropylene tubes (preferably 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes). Aliquot plasma in 100 μl portions, and clearly label each tube with the animal ID and date of collection.

4. The samples should be maintained on wet ice during handling.

5. If the plasma is not analyzed immediately, it should be stored at –80°C.