

ACTH Stimulation (Stim) Test Flow Chart and Interpretation

The attached chart (page 2) may help you interpret the results of the ACTH stimulation test, when used to help diagnose Cushing's disease.

While most veterinarians use the Low Dose Dexamethasone Test (LDDST) for diagnosis, the ACTH stim test is valuable in some cases. This test is particularly helpful in screening diabetic dogs for Cushing's. It is also used when iatrogenic (steroid-induced) Cushing's disease is suspected.

Overall, the ACTH stim test has a lower rate of false positives and a higher rate of false negatives than the LDDST. Approximately 20% of dogs that have Cushing's will be negative on the ACTH stim test.

NOTE: ACTH stim is also used to monitor dogs being treated for Cushing's disease. See the Vetoryl (trilostane) folder for monitoring chart.

ACTH Stimulation Test

Diagnostic Protocol for Cases of Suspected Cushing's Syndrome or Addison's Disease

