# Collecting and Preparing Hematology Samples

1. Use the appropriate EDTA tube.

Use one of the following:

- Standard EDTA-treated tube (such as IDEXX VetCollect* tubes[†])
- Microtube (available for use with the ProCyte Dx* Hematology Analyzer and ProCyte One* Hematology Analyzer only)

Fill the tube according to the tube manufacturer's specifications.

[†]IDEXX VetCollect tubes are required for the LaserCyte* Hematology Analyzer and LaserCyte* Dx Hematology Analyzer.

Vacuum collection tube
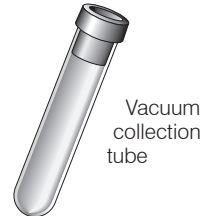
2. Use the appropriate sample collection device.

Use a syringe or vacuum collection system.

Use the appropriate gauge needle for the patient.

Vacuum collection system
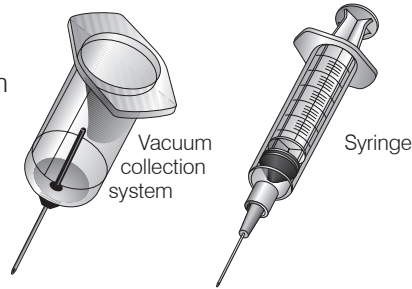
Syringe

3. Collect the sample.

- If using a syringe, immediately transfer the sample to the EDTA tube.
- If using an evacuated tube, push the syringe needle through the rubber stopper of the vacuum collection tube. The vacuum will draw the correct sample volume. If the sample does not initially flow into the tube, **lightly** depress the syringe plunger to start the sample flowing.

IMPORTANT: Fill the tube according to the manufacturer's specifications.
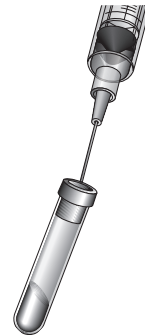
4. Mix the sample.

Manually (and gently) invert the sample 10 times.

Note for samples run on the LaserCyte analyzer or LaserCyte Dx analyzer: If the cap is removed from the EDTA tube (for any reason), the tube should be vented by inserting a needle through the stopper to allow air pressure to equilibrate before placing the tube into the instrument.