AKC/CHF University of Minnesota Thyroid Study:

COLLECTING URINE AT HOME: The urine sample needs to be fresh (within 1-2 hours of your clinic time.

EQUIPMENT
1. A soup ladle with a metal handle works well. Bend the handle such that it extends out further from the cup portion than usual (i.e. at a greater angle). Clean the ladle (in the dish washer, if possible); and make sure that it is dry.
2. Put the urine into a well cleaned container and refrigerate or keep in cooler with ice pack.

PROCEDURE:
1. When your dog squats to urinate catch the urine in the cup of the ladle.
2. Ideally, we do not want the initial portion of the stream. Therefore missing the first few drops is preferred.
3. We only need 5 to 10mls (1 to 2 teaspoons).
4. Pour the urine in the container provided.
5. Store the sample in a cool place (refrigerator, porch, ice chest). Refrigeration is not needed if the sample will be delivered in 1 to 2 hours.
6. Bring the sample in with you when you come to volunteer.

HELPFUL TIPS
1. Practice makes perfect. Because you dog may become suspicious with a change in routine, practice the procedure to ensure that it becomes tolerated. Be prepared and move at a steady pace. Rapidly moving the ladle is likely to startle your dog.
2. Get help. Having two people is more efficient. One can walk the dog while the other one collects the urine.
3. Do not be greedy. Trying to collect all of the urine often results in dogs stepping in the collection container as they rise from the squat position. Only 2 teaspoons of urine is needed.
4. Do not collect urine outside when it is raining or snowing. The sample will become contaminated
5. If the urine collection is unsuccessful, we can assist you at the clinic.
6. Please do not hand in urine samples that become contaminated. They are worthless in the evaluation of your dog.

This can be tricky and we are more than willing to help you collect a sample when you arrive. Please leave your dog in your car and come and check in. Then, we will send a student with you to help you collect a sample.