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## Validation of Salivary Oxytocin and Vasopressin as Biomarkers in Domestic Dogs

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### Highlights

- We validated immunoassays for measuring oxytocin (OT) and vasopressin (AVP) in dog saliva
- OT and AVP were present in dog saliva and detectable by ELISA and HPLC-MS
- Assays yielded good parallelism and accuracy, both with and without extraction
- Dams exhibited an increase in both salivary and plasma OT when nursing their litters

### Abstract

**Background:** Oxytocin (OT) and Vasopressin (AVP) are phylogenetically conserved neuropeptides with effects on social behavior, cognition and stress responses. Although OT and AVP are most commonly measured in blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), these approaches present an array of challenges including concerns related to the invasiveness of

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