Tritrichomonas foetus Collection and Submission Guide

About the Test

- The NDSU-VDL uses a PCR assay to test for *Tritrichomonas foetus*.
- The test is sensitive and does not cross-react with commensals or fecal trichomonads.
- The best results are obtained from properly collected and transported samples.



Collection

- **Quantity:** ≥2 mLs
- **Preferred Container:** Sterile, plastic screwcap (10-50 mL Falcon tube) or plastic red top tube
- **Avoid:** Glass tubes, Whirl-Paks, and urine cups. Broken, wet or leaking samples are a safety hazard and contamination concern and may not be tested.
    - Assay is not approved for samples submitted in InPouches, serum separator tubes, tubes with gel or other preservatives (i.e. EDTA) & WILL NOT be tested.
- Preputial wash samples should be collected by a veterinarian, using a clean pair of exam gloves for each sample to avoid cross contamination.
- Remove excess material, soiled hair, fecal flakes, dirt, etc. that lead to false negatives
    - The VDL may reject or report with a disclaimer if sample is contaminated
    - DO NOT cleanse the sampling area with disinfectants as those could inactivate the parasite
    - A proper sample will be slightly cloudy with visible smegma.

Submission

- Type animal IDs into the Herd Serology/PCR Submission form and email to the VDL
- Enclose a copy with the samples
- **Include the collection date on the submission form.** Samples received >5 days after collection are more likely to produce false negative results.
- Indicate whether testing should be individual or pooled. If not specified, testing may be delayed and will be determined by the VDL.

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NDSU VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

www.vdl.ndsu.edu

Shipping

- Samples must be received by the VDL within 5 days of collection date. Samples that are received more than 5 days old will be tested at the VDL's discretion and reported with a disclaimer.
- Ship samples overnight with cold packs or drop-off in the 24hr cooler.
- If sending in glass red top tubes, we highly recommend individually wrapping in paper towels or napkins and placing in individual baggies to avoid breaking and leaking on other samples.
- Avoid shipping on Fridays, during expected bad weather, long holiday weekends, or expected closures. The NDSU VDL does not receive and process samples on weekends or University/State closures.

Test Notes

- For pooled testing, the laboratory performs the pooling to ensure equal animal representation and traceability.
    - Positive/detected pools will automatically be tested individually. Additional charges apply.
    - Pooled testing is not recommended for herds with known or suspected *Tritichomonas*.
- The Submitter must verify destination-state requirements for individual vs. pooled testing.
- If *Campylobacter* testing is requested, samples cannot be pooled.

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