

Collection and Submission Guidelines for Johne's Fecal PCR Test at NDSU VDL

Use the NDSU VDL Serology submission form (even if fecal samples are submitted) and be sure to include animal identification (both herd identification number and official identification number), age, sex and breed. **You must indicate on the form if you want the samples pooled or run individually, otherwise they will be pooled by the lab if more than 5 samples are submitted.** The prices are listed below. There will also be a \$7.00 case accession fee.

Johne's Pooled Fecal PCR: \$40.00 per pool (5 samples in pool). If the pool is positive, the individual samples are retested at \$15.00 per sample.

Johne's Individual Fecal PCR: \$25.00 per sample if less than 100 samples submitted. \$16.50 per sample if more than 100 samples are submitted on one case.

Johne's Fecal PCR tests are run at least twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesday. Tests may be performed weekly depending upon volume. Contact the lab for further information. Samples received before 11 AM on the testing day, or with prior notification of sample submission, will be tested that day if possible.

Collect fecal samples directly from rectum. **Do not collect ground or floor samples.** Use a separate, dry glove to collect individual sample (moisture and lube may adversely affect the pH of the sample). Gloves should be kept in a clean environment away from dust to prevent cross contamination from different locations.

Collect a minimum of 5-10 grams (1/2 ounce or 1 tablespoon) into a virgin, plastic container (Ziploc bags, Whirlpacks, rectal sleeves, gloves, screw-capped plastic jars, etc). Please make certain that the chosen container will not open, puncture or leak during shipment. Dried fecal material on the outside of the container easily floats around and becomes a huge source of cross contamination.

For practitioner ease and in an attempt to avoid cross contamination of samples before they get to the lab, you may submit the sleeves directly to the lab without transferring the fecal material to another container at your clinic.

Collect the sample in a sleeve while palpating for pregnancy, turn the sleeve inside out, milk the fecal material into the fingers/finger, tie a knot close to the hand end (to keep the fecal material somewhat confined) and again towards the top so that any material that was on the outside is kept in the sleeve.

The outside of the package (glove, sleeve, Ziploc, Whirlpack, container) should not have fecal material on it. If it does, please wipe it off quickly. Once the fecal material dries it really flies and floats around when opening containers or working with the gloves. This is a source of cross contamination and it also makes it difficult to label the samples.

Use permanent ink to clearly and legibly label container with the sample number. Note: Marker used on plastic sleeves tends to rub off when handled roughly making the ID illegible.

Fecal samples need to be chilled quickly and kept cold. During warmer months, place fecal samples in a cooler with cold packs so samples will cool quickly. Transfer samples to refrigerator ASAP. Include ice packs to keep samples cool during shipping; this also prevents containers from bursting open during shipment.

For fecal pooling, five individual animals will be combined in a pool according to the order listed on submission forms. **POOLING PROCEDURES WILL BE DONE AT THE VDL.**

If you have any questions, please call the Diagnostic Lab at 701-231-8307 or 701-231-7527.

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