Collection and Submission Guidelines for Bovine Tritrichomoniasis

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

**Collection:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bulls</th>
<th>Cows</th>
<th>Fetus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Timing for collection</strong></td>
<td>Allow one week to pass after last service before collecting sample</td>
<td>Organisms typically present for 12-20 days post infection</td>
<td>Typically early embryonic death/early abortion, but abortion in any trimester possible</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Preferred Specimen</strong></td>
<td>Preputial washings</td>
<td>Aspirate exudate or washings from fornix of the vagina</td>
<td>Placenta, placental fluids, abomasal contents, lung</td>
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</table>

**Notes:**
- Remove extraneous material and soiled hair. Do not cleanse sampling area with disinfectants (inactivates protozoa). Use a clean pair of exam gloves for each sample.
- An appropriately collected washing should be light pink and cloudy, with visible material, and little blood or debris. A minimum of 2 mL liquid sample is required. Clear samples and samples with significant blood or debris contamination are not appropriate for testing and may either be rejected or have a disclaimer placed on the test results.

**Preputial washings procedure- Pipette method:** Trim prepuce; insert 21-inch sterile insemination pipette into the fornix of the prepuce; place 10-20 ml of sterile saline. Scrape the pipette in and out 2-3 inches in the same spot with gentle pressure while aspirating with a 20 cc syringe; place samples in non-breakable sterile tubes or red top tubes (without serum separator gel or EDTA additive).

**Storage and Shipping:**
- **Direct preputial washing:** Refrigerate samples after collection. Overnight shipping to the laboratory is recommended; samples must be received by the laboratory within 5 days of collection date or may be rejected. Avoid shipping on Friday as the laboratory does not receive mail or deliveries over the weekend. Send on cold pack/ice in sterile leak-proof container.
- **InPouch™:** Inoculate InPouch™ and incubate 24-48 hours at 37°C before sending to the laboratory. During transport, protect from exposure to sunlight or temperature extremes. Inoculated InPouch™ samples must be maintained at 15°C-37°C at all times. Do not freeze.

**Submission:** Fill out [Herd Serology/PCR Submission Form](#) and enclose a copy with sample(s).

**Pooled Testing (5 preputial washes/pool):** Submitter must indicate on the submission form that samples should be pooled. The samples must be pooled at the laboratory. Individuals in positive pools will be automatically retested and charged accordingly. Pooling of samples is not recommended for testing of animals from herds infected with *Tritrichomonas* or herd in which a high degree of suspicion exists. The submitter is responsible for checking destination state requirements concerning pooling of samples for *Tritrichomonas* testing.

Please contact the laboratory with any questions at 701-231-8307 or 701-231-7527 or visit the VDL website [www.vdl.ndsu.edu](http://www.vdl.ndsu.edu).