

NDSU VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

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:

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

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 [General 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.**

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