Collection and Submission Guidelines for Bovine Trichomoniasis

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 **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 *Trichomonas* or herd in which a high degree of suspicion exists. The submitter is responsible for checking destination state requirements concerning pooling of samples for *Trichomonas* 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).

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**Revised 12/2016**