

NDSU VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Collection and Submission Guidelines for Johne's Fecal PCR Testing

Sample Submission: Complete the [Herd Serology/PCR submission form](#). Enclose a copy with samples.

- You must indicate whether the samples should be pooled or tested individually, otherwise submissions containing greater than 5 samples will be pooled. **Note: samples must be pooled at the laboratory!**
- Enter animal identification on the Sample Identification Form. Age, sex and breed are not required.
 - Tip: Place sample(s) you wish to have tested individually at the end of the list and clearly indicate the sample(s) is to be tested individually next to the animal identification number/name.
 - Enclose a copy of the [Sample Identification Form](#) with the samples and email the form (do not scan or fax) to ndsu.vetlab@ndsu.edu using the owner's last name as the subject.

Sample Collection: Because the Johne's PCR assay is very sensitive, it is critical that samples are not cross-contaminated during collection.

- Collect a minimum of 5 grams (1 teaspoon) of feces directly from the rectum and place in a clean container. **Clean, dry rectal sleeves are preferred.** Use a separate, clean, dry glove for each sample (lube not recommended). Collect the sample in a dry sleeve, turn the sleeve inside out, and squeeze the fecal material into the fingers/finger. **Tie a knot close to the hand end to keep the fecal material confined and again towards the top to confine material that was on the outside of the sleeve. Do not shorten the sleeve.** Collection from the ground or floor is not recommended.
- Other containers acceptable for submission include: any wide-mouthed screw capped plastic jars, small Ziploc bags– **NO blood tubes, Whirl-Paks, or exam gloves.**
- **Wipe all fecal material from the outside of the sleeve or container.**

Labeling: Label the samples with the sample number AND specimen ID directly on the sleeve or specimen container using permanent ink; allow ink to dry so that it does not smudge. If a sleeve is submitted in a labeled bag, the sleeve MUST also be labeled. Do not staple labels to sleeve or Ziploc bag.

Storage and Shipment: Fecal samples must be chilled quickly and kept cold. When collecting during warmer months, place fecal samples in a cooler with cold packs; transfer samples to refrigerator ASAP. Fecal samples can be refrigerated for up to 2 weeks. Freezing is not recommended, but samples can be frozen for up to 1 month before shipping to the lab. Include ice packs to keep samples cool; this also prevents containers from bursting open during shipment.

Optimal samples- primary container is clearly labeled with sample number and specimen ID.

-Note that sleeve is knotted twice.

-If submitting samples in Ziploc bags, the seal MUST remain clear of fecal material to prevent cross-contamination of other samples.



Please contact the laboratory with any questions at 701-231-8307 or 701-231-7527 or visit the VDL website at www.vdl.ndsu.edu.

Post Office Mail Address:

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
NDSU, Dept 7691
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

UPS/Fed Ex Address:

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
NDSU Van Es Hall
1523 Centennial Blvd
Fargo, ND 58103

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174 Van Es Hall | NDSU Dept 7691 | PO Box 6050 | Fargo ND 58108-6050 701.231.8307 | ndsu.vetlab@ndsu.edu | www.vdl.ndsu.edu

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