Timing and location of sample

A. Fetus
   1. Placental fluids, abomasal contents, and lung.

B. Cows
   1. Uterus, organisms are present for several days post abortion.
      2. Vaginal mucous organisms typically present for 12-20 days post infection.
         a. Cows will typically clear the infection by 3 months.

C. Bulls
   1. Penile and preputial mucosa.
      a. Allow one week to pass after last service before collecting sample.

Sample collection

A. Remove extraneous material and soiled hair.

B. Do not cleanse sampling area with disinfectants (inactivates protozoa).

C. Cows
   1. Aspirate exudate from the fornix of the vagina.

D. Bulls
   1. Pipette method: trim prepuce; insert 21-inch sterile insemination pipette into the fornix of the prepuce; squirt 10-20 mls of sterile PBS (saline) then scrape pipette in and out 2-3 inches in the same spot with gentle pressure while applying suction with a 20 cc syringe; repeat about 40 times to get into epithelial crypts. An appropriately collected washing should be light pink and cloudy, with visible material and little blood. Use a fresh pair of exam gloves for each sample. We need at least 2 mls of sample for testing.

   2. Clear samples and samples with significant blood contamination are not appropriate for testing and may be either rejected or have a disclaimer placed on the test results.

Sample transportation- Send preputial washing in sterile tube, red top tube without separator gel, or inoculate InPouch™.

A. Samples sent in sterile tubes:
   1. Samples can be stored at room temperature for up to 72 hours or refrigerated for up to one week prior to testing at the laboratory (includes transport time to the lab).

   2. Samples should be shipped to the lab on ice packs.
3. For best results, refrigerate the samples after collection and ship as soon as possible (avoid shipping samples on Friday as the laboratory does not receive mail or deliveries on the weekend).

C. InPouch Samples:
1. Inoculate InPouch and incubate 24-48 hours at 37°C before sending to the lab. During transport protect from exposure to sunlight or temperature extremes. Inoculated InPouches must be maintained between 15°C – 37°C at all times. DO NOT FREEZE.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Assay

A. We use a PCR assay to test for Trichomoniasis. The test is sensitive and doesn’t cross react with commensals or fecal trichomonads.

B. Best results are obtained with properly collected and transported samples.

C. Samples must be received by 11:00 a.m. on test day to ensure reported turn around times.

D. NOW AVAILABLE – Pooled Tritrichomonas testing (5 preputial washes/pool). Please indicate on the submission form that you would like the samples pooled. The samples will be pooled at the laboratory. Individuals in positive pools will be automatically retested. The submitter is responsible for checking destination state requirements concerning pooling of samples for Tritrichomonas testing.

Please visit our website for current pricing and testing schedule

Shipping Address

U.S. Postal Service Mail Address: Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
NDSU Dept. 7691
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

UPS or Fed Ex Address: Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
NDSU Van Es Hall
1523 Centennial Blvd.
Fargo, ND 58102

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
Phone: 701-231-8307 or 701-231-7527 Fax: 701-231-7514


* Adapted from Steven E. Wikse, Texas Cooperative Ext. Veterinary Quarterly Review, Vol. 22, No.4, Winter 2006-2007, Pg. 1-3

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