

2020-21 Collection and Submission of Fecal Samples for Johne's PCR Testing

Due to the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, turnaround times may be impacted. We will always do our best to get results in a timely manner; however, we do not know how testing will be affected on a number of fronts. Many general molecular supplies and reagents are in short supply and employee absences may occur.

PROPERLY LABELING EACH FECAL SAMPLE WITH THE SAMPLE NUMBER (1, 2, 3, ETC.) AND EMAILING A TYPED SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION FORM WITH SAMPLE NUMBERS AND ANIMALS IDS WILL MINIMIZE DELAYS.

Cases with only animal IDs on the fecal samples may cause delays in turnaround beyond the 15 days and be charged an extra fee as laboratory personnel will have to make a new Sample Identification Form. If you have any questions about labeling, please call the Laboratory. If you want animals tested in a specific order, you **MUST** label the fecal samples with the Sample Number (1, 2, 3, etc.).

Collection:

- ✓ **Send at least 5 grams of fecal material per animal.** For example, the amount to fill a finger of a sleeve/glove, 1-2mL if a liquid consistency.
- ❖ Feces should be directly from the rectum and placed in a clean container. If lubricant is needed for collection use water or OB lubricant. Do not use soaps or oils. Use a separate, clean glove for each sample.

Storage & Shipment

- ✓ Fecal samples must be chilled quickly and kept cold. Fecal samples can be refrigerated up to 2 weeks.
- ✓ Freezing is not recommended, but samples can be frozen for up to 1 month before shipping to the laboratory. Ship samples on cold packs.

Turnaround time:

This will vary depending on the time of year, case load, and how well labeled the submission is. **There may also be delays related to the current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.** Holidays, unexpected University/Lab closures (ie. snow days), illnesses and pandemic related circumstances (absences, supplies) could add a few extra days to the turnaround.

- ✓ During the 'fall/winter busy season', the Johne's assay is run multiple times a week.
 - ❖ However, it is not unusual for us to receive thousands of samples in one week (or even one day!). It is imperative that samples are correctly labeled and forms filled out properly to avoid delays.
 - ❖ Even when running the assay multiple times a week, due to volume of cases and number of reweighs, a pool case can still take up to 15 days during the busy season.
- ✓ During slower seasons or when we have fewer submissions, turnaround times follow those posted on the website and the assay is performed on Tuesday.
 - ❖ **Individuals** – results will be reported within 1-2 business days of testing; therefore, results should be expected before 5pm on Thursday.
 - ❖ Individual samples must be received prior to Tuesday to be on the Tuesday run.
 - ❖ **Pools** – results could take up to 15 days. The pools will be tested on a Tuesday, and any reweighs will be tested on the following Tuesday.
- ✓ We will let you know if there are delays beyond those listed on the website.

Submission & Labeling for Veterinarians, Clinic Staff, or Owner Collections:

- ✓ **Email a typed Excel file (Sample Identification Form) with the Sample Number (#1, 2, 3, etc.) & Animal IDS and enclose the Herd Serology/PCR Submission Form with the samples.** Improperly labeled specimens and handwritten or missing forms will cause delays.

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- ✓ **Include the Sample Number & if possible, the Animal ID on each collected fecal sample.** The Sample Number is #1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The Animal ID is helpful when sample numbers are duplicated or cannot be determined; for example, 6 vs 9 or 18 vs 81.
 - ❖ Results will be delayed and an extra fee charged if the Sample Number (1, 2, 3, etc.) is not directly written on the fecal sample.
- ✓ **DO send samples in CLEAN and WELL LABELED containers (SEE BELOW)**
 - ❖ 1) screw cap containers,
 - ❖ 2) sleeves with two knots, one close to the hand end to keep the feces confined and another at top to confine any material that was on the outside of the sleeve
 - ❖ 3) well secured snap cap containers,
 - ❖ 4) zip-top sandwich-sized bags with fecal material well away from the closure
- ✓ **DO NOT send fecal samples in whirl-paks, glass containers, regular exam gloves, plastic grocery bags or receptacles with staples and/or holes, or with handwritten labels covered in feces.**
- ✓ **Indicate whether the samples should be pooled or tested individually. Submissions containing greater than 5 samples will be pooled unless otherwise requested.**
 - ❖ All pooling will be done at the Laboratory. Pool 1 will include Samples #1-5, Pool 2 Samples #6-10, and so on. We do not shift the pooling procedure if samples are missing.
 - ❖ If there are any samples you would like tested individually, place them at the end of the submission and indicate individual tests. However, the individual results will not be reported until the case is fully complete.
- ✓ **Please do not save multiple herd cases and mail all at one time.** This creates a bottleneck and can cause delays. However, it is fine to wait until a large herd is complete before sending, even if it takes a couple days.

Examples of proper samples:

