

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

Sample Submission: Enclose a completed Herd Serology/PCR submission form and Sample Identification Form with samples (age, sex, and breed are optional).

- Indicate whether the samples should be pooled or tested individually. Submissions containing greater than 5 samples will be pooled unless otherwise requested.
- Email the Sample Identification form (do not scan or fax) to ndsuvetlab@ndsu.edu using the owner's last name as the subject.
- Place samples you wish to have tested individually at the end of the list and clearly indicate which sample is to be tested individually next to the animal identification number/name.
- **Samples must be pooled at the laboratory.**

Sample Collection: *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. 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.
- Collect the sample in a dry sleeve, turn the sleeve inside out, and squeeze the fecal material into the fingers of the sleeve. Tie two knots, one close to the hand end to keep the feces confined and another at 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.
- Wide-mouthed screwcap plastic jars and small Ziploc bags are also acceptable sample containers.
 - **Do not submit samples in redtop 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 (1,2,3,4...) and specimen ID (Animal name or tag#) directly on the sleeve or sample 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. 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.