

TVMDL - *Tritrichomonas foetus* Testing Reminders

Correct sample collection and submission is vital to obtaining meaningful *Tritrichomonas foetus* culture results. “**In Pouches**” are read by viewing the contents directly through the plastic walls of the pouch under a microscope. **In Pouch** cultures that are extremely contaminated with bacteria, blood, or debris are unreadable and must therefore be reported out as “Inconclusive” cultures. To avoid this result, please observe the following guidelines:

- If necessary, clip hair around the prepuccial orifice and rinse the prepuccial cavity with sterile saline prior to sample collection. This helps to reduce the bacteria and debris inoculated with the specimen. (**In Pouch** media suppresses but can't completely eliminate yeast/bacterial growth)
- Avoid contamination of the specimen with blood.
- Don't overfill pouches - inoculate 0.5 to 1 ml of specimen into the upper chamber.
- Prior to shipping, express all liquid in the upper chamber into the lower chamber, roll the pouch down, and fold the wire tabs over to secure the roll to avoid leakage.
- DO NOT freeze or refrigerate **In Pouches**; this can cause the media to form crystals and reduced temperatures will kill Trichomonad organisms.
- Please call the lab prior to submission if you are unsure about a specimen's suitability for culture.