

# Test for Trich

*Follow TVMDL's tips to obtain timely, accurate results*



Protecting Animal and Human Health through Diagnostics

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Accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) offers timely and accurate diagnostic tests for *Tritrichomonas foetus*, the parasite that causes bovine trichomoniasis, or "trich." Trich causes abortions and infertility, and unless properly identified with diagnostic testing, can cost the state's cattle producers millions.

TVMDL employs the most current technology available utilizing real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. In order to provide the best service to clients, here are some important guidelines to keep in mind for shipping, incubating and pooling samples for these tests.

## Shipping and incubating samples

As with all diagnostic tests, strict attention to detail in collecting and handling samples helps to ensure an accurate diagnosis:

- Clients who ship samples to TVMDL should make sure they use collection pouches that have not expired.
- Because the PCR test is based on molecular biology, strict attention to avoid cross contamination between samples should begin at collection. All samples should be collected in as clean a manner as possible. Avoid allowing blood and fecal matter into the collection pouch.

- Protecting the sample from extreme weather or exposure to sunlight while at chute side is important. You can minimize temperature extremes in shipment by adding a cold pack in hot weather. Protect your sample from direct contact with the cold pack.

For step-by-step instructions on how to collect a trichomoniasis sample and then package for shipment, visit [tvmdl.tamu.edu/references/video](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu/references/video).

TVMDL recognizes the need to provide producers and practitioners with turn-around times that are as short as possible, and our laboratories strive to meet this standard every day. Our ability to quickly and accurately produce results is linked to receiving a sample quickly and then starting the testing process. When testing for *Tritrichomonas foetus*, for example, samples are required to be incubated at 37°C (98.6°F) for 48 hours prior to testing.

You can ship samples to either of TVMDL's full-service facilities in Amarillo or College Station. Samples should arrive at TVMDL within 48 hours after collection. If this is not practical, samples may be incubated at 37°C (98.6°F) for up to 48 hours at the practitioner's facility. Incubated samples should arrive at TVMDL no later than 120 hours after collection. Additional incubation will not be conducted at the laboratory.

If you choose to incubate pouches prior to shipment, please indicate prior incubation on the TVMDL submission form or on your official trichomoniasis test record. Without this indication, the laboratory will incubate the samples for 48 hours as a matter of procedure.

## POOLING SAMPLES TO REDUCE COSTS

Up to 5 properly collected and handled samples may be officially pooled for testing.

Samples must be collected and shipped individually to the laboratory; TVMDL will pool samples at the lab for \$1 per pouch if pooled testing is requested. For official TAHC testing, up to 5 samples may be pooled and pooling must be completed at the TVMDL. The client will essentially be testing five samples for the price of one with pooling. (Pricing example: 5 samples submitted and pooling requested would be charged \$25 testing fee + \$5 pooling for a total of \$30 plus accession fee.)

If a pooled sample results in a positive test, TVMDL will identify the positive animal(s) by testing the individual samples in the pool at the regular price of \$25 per test. Without the individual tests, all bulls in a positive pool are required by the State to go to slaughter.

**History of trichomoniasis control in Texas**  
In 2008, the Texas beef cattle industry responded to the economic threat posed by bovine trichomoniasis. The industry asked the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) to consider launching a trichomoniasis control program. In response, TAHC organized the trichomoniasis working group, which includes representatives from livestock commodity groups, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and TVMDL.

The program emphasizes PCR testing as the preferred methodology. The State and TAHC selected TVMDL's full-service laboratories as the primary testing facilities.

### About TVMDL

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory protects animal and human health through diagnostics. An agency of the Texas A&M University System, TVMDL comprises two full-service laboratories, in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories, in Center and Gonzales.

TVMDL is among 12 core laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a group of state and regional laboratories designed to provide a nationwide surge testing, response, and recovery capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak.

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