

# Working with TVMDL

*Proper planning  
simplifies sample  
collection, shipping  
and testing*



- Online at [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/tvmdl](https://www.facebook.com/tvmdl)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/tvmdl](https://twitter.com/tvmdl)



The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) aims to produce accurate and timely results for all clients. This is especially important for the agency's work with livestock shows, where a test result can mean the difference in an exhibitor winning scholarship money or being disqualified.

Livestock shows can follow a few simple steps prior to the show to ensure smooth, efficient and accurate test results.

## **Setting up an account**

First, all livestock shows should establish a client account with the laboratory. There are two options for laboratory accounts: a livestock show account or an account held by the show veterinarian. While either is acceptable, we recommend signing the show up for its own account. There is no charge to sign up. With an account:

- One designee per show will receive results
- Results may be sent via email
- TVMDL staff will generally personally call clients prior to releasing results

- Shows can pay invoices online
- TVMDL maintains secure electronic records of all case results
- Records can be accessed through TVMDL's secure online portal

To set up an account, contact the finance section at 979.845.3207, or visit [tvmdl.tamu.edu/products-services/billing](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu/products-services/billing).

## Before the show

Prior to the show, ensure all staffers who assist in sample collection are aware of proper collection procedures. Also, gather collection materials and forms.

- Order urine cups and evidence tape 2-4 weeks prior to the show.
  - o TVMDL offers these supplies at-cost to clients, or show staff may obtain them from other suppliers.
- Establish a system to provide and verify unique identifier numbers for each sample.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory		 <small>TEXAS A&amp;M</small> <b>TVMDL</b> <small>VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY</small>		<small>TVMDLS-05-F0992</small> <small>Rev: G</small> <small>Date Issued: 3/01/12</small> <small>Page: 1 of 2</small> <small>Approved by: RWP</small>
<b>College Station Lab</b> PO Drawer 3040    1 Sippel Rd College Station TX 77841    College Station TX 77843 Ph: 979-845-3414 Ph: 888-646-5623    Fax: 979-845-1784		<b>Amarillo Lab</b> PO Box 3290    6610 Amarillo Blvd West Amarillo TX 79116    Amarillo TX 79186 Ph: 806-353-7478 Ph: 888-646-5624    Fax: 806-359-0638		<b>TVMDL USE ONLY</b> Accession # _____ Assignments _____ Opened By _____ Carrier _____ Date Shipped _____ Comment _____
Owner: <u>Abilene County Fair</u> Research Agreement # _____ Address: <u>same as account</u> City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Contact Mrs Fair City Phone # _____ Fax # _____ <u>Cell</u>		<b>*** Information Below REQUIRED ***</b> ACCOUNT/ID # <u>1234</u> Clinic: <u>Abilene County Fair</u> Address: <u>#1 County Fair Zone</u> City: <u>Best City</u> State: <u>TX</u> Zip: <u>54321</u> E-Mail _____ Phone # <u>(800) 555-1212</u> Fax # <u>(800) 555-1313</u>		
DVM Signature: _____		A signature of an Accredited Veterinarian must be provided for release of results on regulatory disease tests.		
Animal IDs _____		List Multiples Below		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Circle One</b> Bovine, Equine, Porcine, Caprine, Ovine, Canine, Feline, Aquatic, Avian, Zoo/Wildlife, Non-Animal Specimen				
Sex: M F M-cast F-spay Breed _____		Age: Yr Mo Day Fetus _____		Weight: Lb Kg <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Circle One</b>
Test(s) Requested : For a complete list of tests see the web site at <a href="http://tvmdlweb.tamu.edu">http://tvmdlweb.tamu.edu</a> <u>Livestock show drug screen, please add Ziperol on all bovines</u>				
Check for Gross Necropsy only <input type="checkbox"/>		EXPORT CASE Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		Legal/Insured? Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Specimens Submitted: _____				
If biopsy, was entire lesion submitted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				
Clinical History (Please print) - (Clinical signs, Nutrition, Management, Environment, Vaccinations, Treatment, etc.) Reporting individual animal results requires ID NUMBERS to be LISTED HERE or on an attached sheet.				
Specimen Collection Date: _____				
<u>Ovine: 1, 3, 14, 20, 30</u> <u>Bovine: 2, 9, 15, 25, 32</u> <u>Porcine: 8, 10, 90, 101</u> <u>Caprine: 3, 4, 8, 31</u>				
Clinical Diagnosis: _____		**Results by: E-Mail    Fax (\$1.00) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <b>Circle One</b>		
<b>*** An accession fee of \$6.00 (in-state) / \$7.50 (out-of-state) is charged on all submissions. ***</b>				
Send me the following Supplies: Indicated quantity. (Prices may change without prior notice)				Previous TVMDL Cases # _____
Small DOT Shipping Boxes (\$49.00 for case of 100) _____		Prepaid Postage Labels _____		
Large DOT Shipping Boxes (\$12.00 each) _____		TVMDL Submission Forms _____		
<b>TVMDL USE ONLY:</b>				
Large CRF Fee <input type="checkbox"/>		Large Box <input type="checkbox"/>		Large Styrofoam <input type="checkbox"/>
Small CRF Fee <input type="checkbox"/>		Small Box <input type="checkbox"/>		Small Jar <input type="checkbox"/>
				Absorbent <input type="checkbox"/>
				Bubble Wrap <input type="checkbox"/>

- Prepare a chain of custody form for the samples. A multilayer carbonless form is best.
  - o Each show works with a printer of their choice to create the multilayer carbonless form and identifies it with their brand or logo.
  - o The form allows for the show to block exhibitor information before sending to the laboratory, ensuring confidentiality.
- Review sample collection processes and proper shipping procedures.

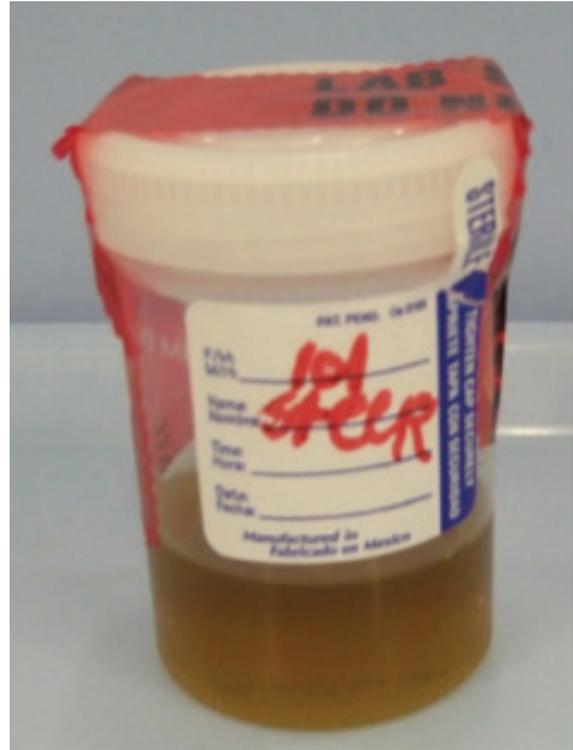
### On site collection and shipping

Actual sample collection should yield a minimum of 20 mL of urine per sample, and two identical samples should be taken. Remember, one sample is sent to TVMDL and another is kept by the show in case confirmation or split-sample testing is required or requested.

It is important to follow TVMDL's guidelines for preparing the sample for shipping.

- Fill out one TVMDL accession form per show, listing each animal by the identification number assigned by the show. Do not include exhibitor names or contact information.
- Ensure the account number, name and organization's contact information is clearly printed.
  - o Test request is the Livestock Show Drug Screen
  - o If zilpaterol testing is needed, indicate so separately
- Chill samples before shipping; ship with ice packs to ensure the specimens arrive chilled.

- Each sample should be secured with evidence tape. Place the tape across the top of the jar or cup, but never around the top or over the label.



- Be careful if freezing cups, as they can crack in transit. TVMDL suggests sealing each sample in its own zip to close-style baggie to ensure the sample is not contaminated.

### Shipping

In the past several months, customers noticed a frequent delay in sample arrivals when shipping via United States Postal Service; however the postal service is working as diligently as possible under budget constraints.

Overnight delivery significantly improves the chances of your sample arriving in good condition for diagnostic testing. Using carriers such as Federal Express (FedEx), LSO (formerly Lone Star Overnight) and United Parcel Service (UPS) ensures samples arrive in a timely manner. The initial cost of an

overnight courier may be slightly higher; however, clients receive verifiable delivery and test results will be available sooner since shipments will have arrived faster. Remember, ship in a styrofoam box that is inside a cardboard box to protect the sample. If a cooler is used for shipping, it will be returned at a nominal charge.

• **LSO, regional carrier**

- Operates in Texas and Oklahoma, with select cities in Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico.
- Guaranteed on-time delivery by 8:30 or 10:30 a.m.; Saturday delivery options. Pick-up by request, scheduled daily or use their drop boxes.
- Perks include late night pick-ups, live customer service, online tracking and a 99-percent on-time delivery rate.
- Texas clients receive discounts mailing to either the Amarillo or College Station lab, depending on service area.

To set up an account with LSO, visit [Iso.com/vets](http://Iso.com/vets). Please contact Chris Garbade with questions, [cgarbade@lso.com](mailto:cgarbade@lso.com) or 1.800.299.8677 ext 1321.

• **FedEx, national carrier**

- The national courier is available in all 50 states.
- Online package tracking, increased drop-off points and scheduled pick-ups are available through FedEx.
- Enter TVMDL's online client portal to access discounts special to TVMDL clients through FedEx.
- Via the portal, clients can find links to secure online forms that generate specimen labels for delivery to the Amarillo and College Station labs.

For questions on sample collection and shipping, contact TVMDL at 979.845.3414 or toll free at 1.888.646.5623.



**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.

• **TVMDL-College Station**

PO Drawer 3040  
College Station, TX 77841-3040

1 Sippel Road, TAMU 4471  
College Station, TX 77841-3040

Tel. 979.845.3414  
Fax. 979.845.1794

• **TVMDL-Amarillo**

PO Box 3200  
Amarillo, TX 79116-3200

6610 Amarillo Blvd. West  
Amarillo, TX 79106

Tel. 806.353.7478  
Fax. 806.359.0636