

Working with TVMDL to Submit Samples for Drug Testing

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.

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.
 - 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.
- Prepare a chain of custody form for the samples. A multilayer carbonless form is best.
 - Each show works with a printer of their choice to create the multilayer carbonless form and identifies it with their brand or logo.

- 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.
 - Test request is the Livestock Show Drug Screen
 - If zilpaterol testing is needed, indicate so separately
- Chill samples before shipping; ship with cold 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.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory		TVMDL		TVMDL USE ONLY
College Station Lab PO Drawer 3340 1 Stigel Rd College Station TX 77841 College Station TX 77843 Ph: 879-845-3414 Fax: 888-646-6823 Fax: 979-845-1784		Amarillo Lab PO Box 3206 6650 Amarillo Blvd West Amarillo TX 79116 Amarillo TX 79106 Ph: 806-353-7478 Fax: 888-646-6824 Fax: 806-359-6826		Accession # _____ Assignments _____ Opened By _____ Carrier _____ Date Shipped _____ Comment _____
Owner: <u>Whisper County Fair</u> Research Agreement # _____ Address: <u>same as account</u> City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Contact: <u>Mrs Fair City</u> Phone # _____ Fax # _____ L → Cell		*** Information Below REQUIRED *** ACCOUNT ID # <u>1234</u> Clinic: <u>Whisper County Fair</u> Address: <u>Whisper County Fair</u> City: <u>Best City</u> State: <u>TX</u> Zip: <u>79321</u> E-Mail _____ Phone # <u>(800) 555-1212</u> Fax # <u>(800) 555-1212</u>		A signature of an Accredited Veterinarian must be provided for release of results on regulatory disease tests. Signature: _____ Animal IDs _____
Sex: M F M-cast F-spay Breed _____ Age: Yr Mo Day Fetus _____ Weight: Lb Kg <input checked="" type="radio"/> Circle One Test(s) Requested: For a complete list of tests see the web site at http://tvmdlweb.tamu.edu <u>Livestock show drug screen, please add Zilpaterol 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>Bovine: 4, 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 type="radio"/> Circle One *** An accession fee of \$6.00 (in-state) / \$7.50 (out-of-state) is charged on all submissions. *** Send me the following Supplies: Indicated quantity. (Prices may change without prior notice) Small DOT Shipping Boxes (\$49.00 for case of 16) _____ Prepaid Postage Labels _____ Previous TVMDL Cases # _____ Large DOT Shipping Boxes (\$12.00 each) _____ TVMDL Submission Forms _____ TVMDL USE ONLY: Large CRF Fee <input type="checkbox"/> Large Box <input type="checkbox"/> Large Styrofoam <input type="checkbox"/> Absorbent <input type="checkbox"/> Small CRF Fee <input type="checkbox"/> Small Box <input type="checkbox"/> Small Jar <input type="checkbox"/> Bubble Wrap <input type="checkbox"/>				



Shipping

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.

• **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.