

Hair Sample Collection Preparation

The collection of hair samples should be undertaken by a competent individual within a secure, contamination-free facility. The purpose of hair sampling is to collect a usable cross-section of hair to test for prohibited substances.

Collection Supplies

- TVMDL submission form
- Disposable gloves
- Comb
- Collection envelope or plastic bag
- Rubber band, zip tie, or twist tie
- Alcohol wipes or equivalent



Collecting the Sample

1. Identify the area to be sampled - middle third of the neck on the underside of the mane is preferred. If the mane is more than one color, a dark color is preferable to a light color, regardless of location. If the mane is shorter than 4 inches, tail hair should be sampled.
2. The sampled hair must be clean of debris and dry (do not sample wet hair).
3. Wearing new, clean disposable gloves, pull strands of hair, ensuring to keep the roots/follicles intact (**DO NOT CUT THE HAIR**). If using a comb, clean the comb with alcohol and allow to dry before sampling each horse.
4. Collect strands of hair until the total amount of hair collected is approximately 2 cm in diameter (i.e., as wide as a Sharpie marker) when bunched. If collecting hair for segmental testing, a total of 4 cm in diameter is required.
5. Secure the root end of the bunched hair sample using a rubber band, zip tie, or twist tie.
6. Place the hair into a plastic bag or envelope.
7. Complete the submission form.



Samples should be stored at room temperature and protected from direct light.

For more information on hair testing, please visit the RMTC website at rmtcnet.com and access the Hair Testing Primer by clicking Menu -> Technical Resources -> Laboratories & Testing.

For more information on submitting equine hair samples, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.