

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) has been providing drug testing services for livestock shows across the country for almost 30 years. The agency tests in excess of 3,500 samples for more than 90 shows across the United States annually. TVMDL's drug testing laboratory is an ISO 17025 accredited lab with state-of-the-art equipment and expert staff. The information below is an overview of TVMDL's livestock show drug testing program.

Chain of Custody

It is imperative that chain of custody is maintained from the time of sample collection to receipt of the sample at the lab. TVMDL has a submittal form specifically for livestock shows to maintain chain of custody. The form can be found on the TVMDL website on the "Find a Form" tab located on the main menu. A list of animal ID numbers and species should be attached to the submittal form. **Do not include exhibitor names on sample containers or paperwork.** Additionally, sample collection containers should be sealed with evidence tape placed across the top of the lid. Containers should be labeled with the animal ID and species, ensuring the information is legible and not covered by the evidence tape.



Testing Information

Animal Species

TVMDL can provide drug testing on a variety of show animal species, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits, poultry, horses, llamas, and alpacas.

Sample Matrices

TVMDL can provide drug testing on a variety of sample matrices. Refer to the table below for information regarding species and minimum volume required.

Specimen	Species	Minimum Amount	Notes
Urine	*All	10 cc	*Includes rabbits, not poultry
Serum/Plasma	*All	5 cc	*Not rabbits or poultry
Feces	Poultry, Rabbits	2 g	

TVMDL also has the ability to test tissue samples, including retina, liver, kidney and muscle. Please contact the laboratory directly with specimen requirements for tissue testing.

Drug Screening

All samples are screened using liquid chromatography – high resolution accurate mass spectrometry (LC-HRAMS). TVMDL's comprehensive drug screen includes a variety of drug classes, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, steroids, bet-adrenergic agonists, illicit drugs, stimulants, and sedatives/tranquilizers. TVMDL's screen does not include antibiotics and anthelmintics.

Confirmation Testing

Suspect samples from the screening process are retested as part of a confirmation test at no additional fee. Confirmation testing is performed using liquid chromatography – tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS).

Test results are qualitative. Quantitative testing is available for confirmed positive samples for an additional fee, if the quantity of sample remaining is adequate.

Test Fees and Turnaround Time

The livestock show drug testing fee is \$70 per sample for urine, plasma/serum, and feces. An additional fee of \$70 per sample is applied for quantitative testing. The testing fee for retina tissue is \$140 per sample. A \$7 accession fee is also applied to each submission. Livestock show drug testing is performed at the College Station location Monday through Friday. Results are typically reported within 5 to 10 business days.

Sample Collection Supplies

Sterile urine collection cups (4 oz.), evidence tape, blood tubes, and latex gloves are available for purchase through TVMDL. Visit the TVMDL website and hover over the “Deliver a Sample” tab and click on the “Order Supplies” option. Contact the lab to order supplies 2-4 weeks in advance of the show.

Shipping Information

Sample Handling

Individual samples should be placed in a zip-lock bag to collect any urine that may leak during transit. Samples should be shipped overnight with cold packs. Samples should be stored refrigerated prior to shipping. Samples held for more than two days prior to shipping should be stored frozen.

Courier Service

TVMDL is a proud partner with the Southeast Vocational Alliance (SVA). Through this program, clients have access to real-time rates from FedEx and LSO. The SVA also offers federal shipping rates. To learn more about SVA, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu and click on “Deliver a Sample”.

