

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) offers timely and accurate diagnostic tests for *Trichomonas 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 (rtPCR) 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 trich testing by rtPCR or culture.

## **COLLECTING AND HANDLING SAMPLES**

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

- If requesting a test that uses a collection pouch, ensure it is not expired.
- Because the rtPCR 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. Minimize temperature extremes in shipment by adding a cold pack in hot weather. Protect the sample from direct contact with the cold pack.

For step-by-step instructions on how to collect a sample and package it for shipment, visit the bovine section of the Education Library at [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu) for a video.

## **COLLECTION AND SHIPPING GUIDELINES BASED ON REQUESTED TEST**

### ***Culture***

- Ship in In-Pouch
- Samples must arrive at laboratory within 48 hours of collection

### ***In-Pouch (rtPCR)***

- Ship in In-Pouch
- Incubate samples at 37°C (98.6°F) for 48 hours prior to testing
- Samples must arrive at laboratory within 96 hours of collection
- Pooling eligible for up to five samples

### ***Direct Smegma (rtPCR)***

- Ship in tube containing 1.5 mL of PBS or sterile saline
- Samples must arrive at laboratory within 120 hours of collection
- Samples must be chilled from collection until received at laboratory
- Pooling eligible for up to five samples

## POOLING SAMPLES TO REDUCE COSTS

In-Pouch (rtPCR) samples and direct smegma samples submitted in saline are eligible for pooled testing for a more cost effective rate. Per the Texas Animal Health Commission's (TAHC) regulatory testing requirements, up to five samples can be pooled at one time. Samples must be collected and shipped individually to the laboratory. If requested, TVMDL will pool up to five samples at the laboratory for \$1.10 per pouch.

If a pooled sample results in a positive test, TVMDL will identify the positive animal(s) by testing all individual samples from the pool. Without the individual tests, all bulls in a positive pool are required by the State to go to slaughter.

## HISTORY OF TRICHOMONIASIS 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.

Although, the program emphasizes PCR testing as the preferred methodology, culture of the organism is another option. Selected by the State and TAHC as the primary testing facilities, TVMDL's full-service laboratories offer both testing options.

Enter the owner's email on the submission form so they receive reports along with the submitting veterinarian.

Indicate if the sample was incubated prior to shipping. If incubated, list the amount of time.

**TVMDL** TEXAS A&M VETERINARY MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

**Submission Form**  
Document: 10741 | Revision: 12

*Avoid postal service delays by shipping specimens via overnight courier directly to the physical address listed below. Not all locations perform all tests. For faster service, ship directly to the location that performs the tests requested. Visit our website for the latest information on test offerings.*

College Station Laboratory		Canyon Laboratory	
<b>USPS Mail Address</b> PO Drawer 3040 College Station, TX 77841-3040 <b>Telephone</b> 979.845.3414	<b>Physical /Shipping Address</b> 483 Agronomy Road College Station, TX 77843-4471 <b>FAX</b> 979.845.1794	<b>USPS Mail Address</b> WT Box 60818 Canyon, TX 79016 <b>Telephone</b> 806.651.7478	<b>Physical /Shipping Address</b> 3209 Russell Long Blvd Canyon, TX 79016 <b>FAX</b> 806.651.7477

SUBMITTER INFORMATION	ANIMAL OWNER INFORMATION	For TVMDL Use
Account # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Mark if Submitter and Owner Information are the same	Accession # _____
Clinic _____	Name _____	Assignments _____
Address _____	Address _____	Opened By _____
City _____	City _____	<input type="checkbox"/> FedEx <input type="checkbox"/> UPS <input type="checkbox"/> LSC
State _____ ZIP _____	State _____ ZIP _____	<input type="checkbox"/> USPS <input type="checkbox"/> Messenger
Telephone _____	Email _____	Other Carrier _____
Veterinarian _____	Telephone _____	# Samples _____
Billing Account # (if different from primary account) _____	Previous Accession # _____	Comment _____
	Premises ID _____	

Animal ID(s)/Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*List multiples below in Clinical History or attach additional pages.*

Species  Avian  Bovine  Canine  Caprine  Equine  Feline  Ovine  Porcine  Wildlife  Zoo  Non-Animal

Breed \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  Male  M-Neut  Female  F-Neut Age \_\_\_\_\_ Yr  Mo  Day  Fetus Weight \_\_\_\_\_ lb  kg

Specimen Type and Anatomic Location	Collection Date	Test Code	Test Name

Hold for cremation? Yes  No  Was the animal euthanized? Yes  No

Legal/Forensic Case  Insurance Case  Export Case  Zoonotic Suspect

For biopsies, was the entire lesion submitted? Yes  No

Clinical History (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clinical Diagnosis \_\_\_\_\_

- An accession fee is charged on each submission.
- All samples and documentation submitted become property of TVMDL and may be tested as part of state/federal surveillance programs, utilized for research and educational purposes, and/or development of new assays.
- TVMDL is unable to return samples unless prior arrangements are approved by the agency director or designee.
- Changes to account information (email, phone, address, etc) can be made by contacting TVMDL's Finance Section at 979.458.3207.
- Order supplies and view a complete catalog of tests, fees, sample requirements, and testing schedules at <https://tvmdl.tamu.edu>.

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