

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 for a video.

COLLECTION AND SHIPPING GUIDELINES BASED ON REQUESTED TEST

- ***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
- ***Culture***
 - Ship in In-Pouch
 - Samples must arrive at laboratory within **48 hours** of collection
- ***Direct Smegma (rtPCR)***
 - Ship in test tube with 1.5 mL of phosphate buffered saline (PBS)
 - Samples must arrive at laboratory within **96 hours** of collection
 - Samples must be chilled from collection until received at laboratory

POOLING SAMPLES TO REDUCE COSTS

In-Pouch (rtPCR) samples 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 per pouch.

Pricing example: 5 samples submitted and pooling requested would be charged \$25 testing fee + \$5 pooling for a total of \$30 plus accession fee.

If a pooled sample results in a positive test, TVMDL will identify the positive animal(s) by testing all individual samples from the pool at the regular price of \$25 per test. 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.



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

Submission Form
Document: 10741 | Revision: 11

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

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Account # _____

Clinic _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____

Veterinarian _____

Service/Price Agreement # _____

ANIMAL OWNER INFORMATION

Mark if Submitter and Owner Information are the same

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____

Previous Accession # _____

For TVMDL Use

Accession # _____

Assignments _____

Opened By _____

FedEx UPS LSC
 USPS Messenger

Other Carrier _____

of Samples _____

Comment _____

Animal ID(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

For biopsies only: was the entire lesion submitted? Yes No

Hold for Cremation Gross Necropsy Only Legal/Insurance Case Zoonotic Suspect Export Case

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.
- Order supplies and view a complete catalog of tests, fees, sample requirements, and testing schedules at <https://tvmdl.tamu.edu>.

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