

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.



TVMDL Submission form
 Document: 10741
 Revision: 9

All samples submitted to TVMDL for testing become the property of the agency and may be tested as part of state/federal surveillance programs, utilized for research purposes and/or development of new assays. TVMDL is unable to return samples to the client unless prior arrangements are made and approved by the agency Director or designee.

College Station Lab PO Drawer 3040 483 Agronomy Rd College Station TX 77841-3040 College Station TX 77843-4171 Ph: 979-845-2414 Ph: 888-646-5623 Fax: 979-845-1734	Amarillo Lab PO Box 3200 6610 Amarillo Blvd West Amarillo TX 79116 Amarillo TX 79106 Ph: 806-353-7478 Ph: 888-646-5624 Fax: 806-359-0636
---	---

Accession # _____	*** Information Below REQUIRED ***	Client PO # _____
Owner _____	ACCOUNT # _____	Assignments _____
Research Agreement # _____	Clinic _____	Opened By _____
Address _____	Address _____	Carrier _____
City _____	City _____	Date Received _____
State _____ Zip _____	State _____ Zip _____	Comment _____
E-mail _____	E-mail _____	
Phone # () _____	Phone # () _____	
Fax # () _____	Fax # () _____	

DVM Signature : _____ **A signature of an accredited veterinarian must be provided for release of results on regulatory disease tests.**

Animal IDs _____ *List Multiples Below*

Check One Bovine Equine Porcine Caprine Ovine Canine Feline Avian Zoo/Wildlife Non-Animal Specimen

Sex: M F M-cast F-spay **Breed** _____ **Age**: Yr Mo Day Fetus **Weight** : Lb Kg (Check One)

Test(s) Requested : For a complete list of tests see the website at <http://tvmdl.tamu.edu>:

Check for Gross Necropsy only EXPORT CASE Yes Legal/Insured? Yes

Specimens Submitted: _____

If biopsy, was entire lesion submitted? Yes No

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: _____ **Previous TVMDL Case #**: _____

Clinical Diagnosis: _____ ****Results by**: E-Mail Fax (Check One)

An accession fee is charged on all submissions. For a complete list of tests, pricing, and sample requirements, please visit <http://tvmdl.tamu.edu>.

Supply Ordering: Please visit <https://tvmdl.tamu.edu/shipping/order-supplies/>

TVMDL USE ONLY: Small CRF Fee Small Box Large CRF Fee Large Box Large Styrofoam

Effective Date: 10/5/2018 9:06:00 AM | Editor: Knight, Holley
 Classification: S-DS-F 1 of 2