

Collecting Hair for Livestock Show Drug Testing

Hair is a strong, stable tissue that is simple to collect, transport, and store. Data suggest hair is as effective a matrix as retinal tissue for detecting beta-adrenergic agonist drugs (i.e. clenbuterol, zilpaterol, ractopamine and albuterol).

Please note that hair testing is a targeted analysis. Urine and/or serum should be submitted for comprehensive drug testing.

Sample Collection

Hair collection should be performed by individuals familiar with the process. Care should be taken to avoid the potential for cross-contamination and to ensure that hair samples are dry before collection. Gloves should be worn at all times and replaced between collections of each animal.

Collection Supplies

- Disposable gloves
 - Collection device – e.g. clippers or scissors
 - Disinfectant wipes
 - Sealable bag or container
 - Security tape
 - TVMDL submittal form or chain of custody form
1. Select the appropriate location for sample collection. Hair from the pastern, fetlock, or tail is recommended. Note: Hair may be collected from multiple locations and combined to ensure sufficient sample size. If necessary, dry the hair with a paper towel prior to cutting.
 2. Clean clippers or scissors with a disinfectant wipe prior to use, between each animal, and after the final collection.
 3. Cut the hair as close to the skin as possible using clippers or scissors.
 4. Collect enough hair such that the total amount when bunched is approximately 2 cm in diameter (i.e. the thickness of 2 pencils).
 5. Place the hair in a sealable bag or container and seal the bag or container with security tape.
 6. Label the bag or container with the animal ID.
 7. If collecting a 'B-sample' repeat the steps above and store the 'B-sample' in a separate sealable bag or container, labeled accordingly.
 8. Samples should be stored dry, at room temperature and protected from light.
 9. Using a TVMDL submittal form or chain of custody form, indicate the animal species, animal ID and "Drug Screen – Beta Agonists in Hair (1021)" as the test request.



For more information on submitting hair for livestock show drug testing visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.