

The collection of feather samples should be undertaken by a competent individual within a secure, contamination-free facility. Ideally, the collector should wear gloves when handling feathers.

## Collection Supplies

Collection supplies should include:

- TVMDL submission form and/or chain of custody form
- Disposable gloves
- Scissors
- Collection cup or plastic bag
- Security seal

## Collecting the Sample



Step 1



Step 2



Steps 3, 4, and 5

Before collection, make sure all scissors intended for collection are clean. It is recommended the collector use an alcohol wipe to clean scissors before each cut.

1. Collect feathers from the base of the tail area on the upper back of the bird.
2. Cut sample as close to the skin as possible. Do not pull feather out. Collect a minimum of 12 feathers from the base of the tail area for broilers and a minimum of 6 feathers for turkeys.
3. Place sample in plastic jar or bag and ensure it stays contamination-free. If collecting multiple samples, wash scissors, and use new disposable gloves each time. Wash hands between each collection if gloves are not worn.
4. Clearly label the plastic jar or bag.
5. Place security seal across the lid of the jar or fold up the bag to maintain chain of custody.

## After Collection

Do not store sample in:

- Refrigerator or freezer
- Direct sunlight

For more information on submitting feather samples, visit [tvmdl.tamu.edu](http://tvmdl.tamu.edu).