



Sample collection guide

- *bovine Campylobacter and Tritrichomonas testing*



Tritrichomonas fetus and *Campylobacter fetus venerealis* infections of cattle are sexually transmitted diseases associated with infertility. Cattle destined for live export or entering centres for export semen or ova production are required to be tested free of infection. Bovine preputial and vaginal samples for campylobacter and tritrichomonas culture require specialised transport media and collection techniques.

Sample kit includes (for each animal):

1. Landers TEM campylobacter culture media, 9mL (brown fluid) - store frozen
2. Phosphate buffered saline (PBS), 9mL (clear fluid)
3. InPouch® TF - *Tritrichomonas fetus* culture system
4. Tricamper™ sampling rod

Sample kits can be obtained from Gribbles Veterinary Palmerston North using [online ordering](#).

Preparation of the prepuce or vulva:

The area around the preputial orifice and vulva should be clipped of external hair, washed with clean water to remove any extraneous material, and dried with paper towels. Disinfectants are contraindicated. To further reduce contamination, place the Tricamper into a long plastic glove, introduce it into the prepuce or vulva, and then forcibly rupture the glove with the Tricamper. Draw the Tricamper back into the glove before removal.

Sampling with Tricamper:

Bull: Scrape along the inside of the prepuce, penis and length of the preputial cavity. Place your hand on the prepuce whilst scraping to assist the placement of the Tricamper.

Cow: Introduce the tip of the Tricamper into the cervix; also scrape around the external cervix and along the vaginal wall on removal.

Sample handling:

Cut off the black tip of the Tricamper using sterilized scissors or cutting pliers. Place the cut tip of the Tricamper into the PBS bottle. Close and agitate the bottle to wash out the scrapings into the PBS and stand for a minimum of two minutes to allow settling.

Inoculation of *Campylobacter* Lander's TEM medium:

Allow Landers TEM to fully thaw and reach room temperature prior to inoculation. Once the samples have settled, withdraw 1mL of the supernatant from the top of the inoculated PBS using a sterile syringe and inoculate the sample into the Landers TEM.

Inoculation of InPouch® TF-Bovine *Tritrichomonas fetus* culture system:

1. Manually express a little liquid from the bottom chamber of the InPouch® TF so there is about 1mL in the upper chamber.
2. Tear open the pouch at the notch just above the closure tape. Open by pulling the closure tape's middle tabs apart.



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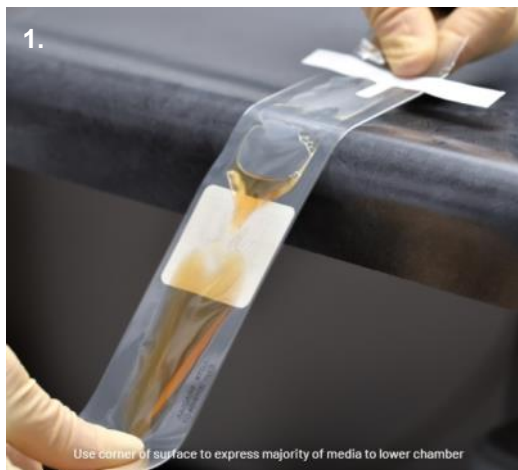
Please refer to our current price book for sample types, test turn-around times and pricing. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact your local Gribbles Veterinary laboratory or Territory Manager.



3. Withdraw 0.5mL of the sediment from the bottom of the inoculated PBS using a sterile syringe and inoculate into the InPouch® TF.
4. Mix and push the media back into the lower chamber and roll the pouch down until the tape is at the top of the label. Fold the wire tape's end to lock.

Sample submission:

- Label the inoculated Landers TEM and InPouch® TF with the animal identification and date.
- Store out of direct sunlight, at 15-37°C (e.g. in a chilly bin) and transport to Gribbles Veterinary Palmerston North as soon as possible after collection (within 24 hrs). Avoid freezing, refrigeration and exposure to temperatures >37°C.
- Submit the remainder of the sample in the original universal bottle for tritrichomonas dark-field microscopy and any other cultures.



Sample acceptance criteria:

- All submissions for *Campylobacter* and *Trichomonas* export testing need to be received in the laboratory within 48 hours of collection (in the required transport medium if not received on the same day of collection).

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- Phosphate buffered saline (PBS) is not a suitable transport medium if the samples are to be cultured.
 - (a) For samples that cannot be received in the laboratory on the same day, it is essential that the genital wash/scrape in the PBS is inoculated into the appropriate transport media on the **same** day and soon as possible after collection. Appropriate transport media are the InPouch® Bovine TF culture media and the Lander's media for *Campylobacter*.
 - (b) The laboratory will accept samples received in PBS only on the same day of collection. The laboratory will then process the sample onto the required culture media.
- If samples are received in the PBS via overnight courier or later, the submission is unsuitable for export testing and the client will be notified. A report will be issued stating that due to the sample not being received in the required transport medium the sample is NOT acceptable for testing.
- If samples inoculated in the TF InPouch® and Lander's Media are not received within the required time frame, a report will be issued stating the sample is unsuitable for export testing.
- It is important to maintain samples at 15-37°C during transport to the laboratory.
- Specimens must be labelled correctly with the same animal identification on the submission form and on the sample.

Please note, samples delivered to our Dunedin or Christchurch laboratories before 4pm will be couriered overnight to the Palmerston North testing laboratory.

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