

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 using our 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.
3. Withdraw 0.5mL of the sediment from the bottom of the inoculated PBS using a sterile syringe and inoculate into the InPouch TF.

- 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.

