

General Guidelines for Incoming Specimens for Testing - Animal Health Laboratory

Sample Type	Acceptance Criteria			
	Bacteriology	Bacteriology Molecular Assay	Immunology and Virology	Immunology and Virology Molecular Assay
1. blood (whole blood, serum, plasma)	Chilled, non expired vials, non haemolysed, 1 mL serum, 3 - 5 mL EDTA	Chilled, non expired vials, non haemolysed, 1 mL serum, 3 - 5 mL EDTA	Chilled, non expired vials, non haemolysed, 1 - 3mL serum, 3 - 5 mL EDTA	Chilled, 1 - 3mL serum, 3 - 5 mL EDTA
2. blood smears	Anthrax suspect :two for staining, plus one spare. Blood collected within 6 hours of death for capsule visualisation.	NA	Room temperature	NA
3. tissues a. fresh - brain stem /spinal chord - skin/ epithelial tissue b. in transport media - VTM (viral transport media) - Friis broth (FB) for Mycoplasma culture c. fixed	Approx 1 g minimum of tissue Chilled , <72 hours Chilled, <72 hours Chilled, <72 hours.For Mycology - ambient temperature. N/A Chilled - approx 2mg small cut pieces in FB <72 hours. N/A	Approx 1 g minimum of tissue Chilled , <72 hours Chilled, <72 hours Chilled, <72 hours. Not for Mycoplasma molecular testing Block or shavings acceptable.	Approx 1 g minimum of tissue Chilled and <48 hrs Chilled and <48 hrs Chilled and <48 hrs Chilled and <48 hrs	Approx 1 g minimum of tissue Chilled and <48 hrs Chilled and <48 hrs
4. swabs* a. cloacal swab b. nasopharyngeal swab c. General bacteriology swab d. genital swab for CEM culture e. for Mycoplasma culture and PCR	In amies transport medium , chilled, <72 hours In amies transport medium , chilled, <72 hours In amies transport medium , chilled, <72 hours In amies transport medium with charcoal and chilled. Received within 48 hours of collection. Plain or in Friis broth (as transport medium) <72 hours	Plain swab (can be placed in 2ml PBS) Plain swab (can be placed in 2ml PBS) Plain swab (can be placed in 2ml PBS) N/A Plain swab (can be placed in 2ml PBS)	In 2 mL ATM , chilled and <48 hrs In 10 mL VTM , chilled and <48 hrs In 10 mL VTM , chilled and <48 hrs	Chilled or frozen, <48 hrs Chilled or frozen, <48 hrs
4. whole animals a. day old chicks b. birds c. bees d. lizards e. ticks	Fresh <72 hours (Fresh or frozen for Salmonella culture) Fresh <72 hours (Fresh or frozen for Salmonella culture) Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours Live if possible	resh <72 hours (Fresh or frozen for Salmonella culture) resh <72 hours (Fresh or frozen for Salmonella culture) Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours Live if possible	Chilled <48 hrs	Chilled <48 hrs or frozen
5. aquatic samples a. whole fish b. molluscs / bivalves c. fish heads / other tissues refer to no. 3 d. fish eggs e. Organs f. Spleen/kidney in viral transport media	Fresh, chilled, preferably <24 hours post mortem or live moribund samples Fresh, chilled, live moribund samples Fresh, chilled Fresh, chilled, preferably < 24 hours Fresh, chilled, preferably <24 hours post mortem NA	Fresh, chilled, preferably <24 hours post mortem or live moribund samples Fresh, chilled, live moribund samples Fresh, chilled Fresh, chilled, preferably < 24 hours Fresh, chilled, preferably <24 hours post mortem NA	NA NA In fish transport media and chilled <48 hours In fish transport media and chilled <48 hours In fish transport media and chilled <48 hours Chilled and received <48 hr from collection , not frozen	As for Bacteriology Molecular assays
6. semen a. semen straws b. fresh chilled semen	Frozen or chilled <72 hours. Chilled <72hours	Frozen or chilled <72 hours. Chilled <72hours	In liquid nitrogen, correctly labelled, not leaking Chilled <48 hrs, correct labelling, not leaking, EVA VI = minimum 10ml, sperm rich fraction	Correctly labelled, not leaking
7. faeces	Faeces ambient temperature <72 hours	Faeces ambient temperature <72 hours	NA	NA
8. environmental samples & others a. poultry litters / beddings b. Product samples for mycoplasma	Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours Chilled or ambient temperature <72 hours, minimum 5 g / 5 mL	N/A	N/A	N/A
9. Isolate Cultures	Fresh subculture, preferably on a slope	Fresh subculture, preferably on a slope	NA	NA

Note :

Transport media (contains antibiotics) are available for dispatch upon request.

For Bacteriology:

Samples for testing for temperature sensitive organisms (e.g. *Haemophilus*) in general should not be refrigerated.

*Swabs with charcoal must not be used for PCR testing.