

### Sampling and Shipping Guidelines for Animal Health Laboratory

Please contact the laboratory prior to submitting samples if you are in doubt about sample collection. The following information provides guidelines for submitting samples. If you have any further questions please contact AHL by phone at 709.729.6897 or 709.729.0388, or by email at [ahl@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ahl@gov.nl.ca).

- When collecting a sample, ensure that it is appropriate for the analysis and the answer you need.
- Ensure sample size and containers are appropriate; if you have any questions, contact the laboratory.
- Clearly label samples with indelible ink.
- Submit samples individually in leak-proof containers (e.g. secure screw top, snap top plastic containers). **DO NOT** use Whirlpak bags as the primary container.
- Separate serum from clot after complete clotting has taken place. Submit sera in a **plastic** tube, **NOT** glass Vacutainers (they may break or explode). **DO NOT** submit samples in syringes.
- Collect feces in screw-capped plastic bottles, **NOT** rectal sleeves, plastic bags, Vacutainer tubes (they may explode), etc.
- Complete the appropriate sample submission form and enclose with samples. Be sure to provide any critical information about sample history, specify the tests requested and the number of vials submitted. Information on the source (e.g. cystocentesis, skin lesion, liver), species, breed, age, sex, treatment, morbidity, mortality, etc. can be important in providing accurate results.
- Be aware that certain samples require refrigeration, freezing or extra packaging to maintain sample integrity or control offensive odours. Ship these samples such that these conditions are maintained until they are received by the laboratory.
- Samples can be sent to the laboratory by courier, or they can be hand-delivered. Make prior arrangements with the lab for herd tests for mastitis, etc. via telephone, or email.
- Do not ship perishable samples to arrive on holidays or weekends.
- Reception hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (4 pm during summer hours)
- The laboratory reserves the right to not process samples which pose a health risk to laboratory personnel or are leaking, damaged or spoiled and are no longer suitable for analysis.