

## Transport Devices

There are many options!  
Some facts and recommendations:



**Port-A-Cul ® tubes:** excellent for biopsy tissues and swabs.

**Port-A-Cul ® vial:** best option for fluids.

**Isolator ® tubes and blood culture bottles:** excellent for blood. Blood culture bottles are the best option for CSF and Joint Fluids when sample won't be processed immediately. Isolator tubes are for blood only.

### **Aerobic, anaerobic and fungal culture?**

Fluids and tissues are preferred. Port-A-Cul ® vials for fluids and Port-A-Cul ® tubes for tissue. If swabs are the only option, collect one per type of culture in Amies or Stuarts transport media.

### **Suspect a fastidious microorganism?**

*Campylobacter* spp, *Mycoplasma* spp, *Ureaplasma* spp, *Tritrichomonas* spp, and many others, may need special transport media. CALL THE LAB FIRST.

### **When are swabs appropriate?**

Swabs are satisfactory for abscesses, otic, reproductive and ophthalmic samples.

Bacterial culturettes (i.e. Amies or Stuarts transport media) are a good option. Dry swabs (without transport media) are unsuitable.

### **Why should swabs be avoided?**

- Sample size is too small.
- Some microorganisms are inhibited by swab components
- One swab does not provide enough sample for more than one culture
- When infectious agents are deep in tissue swabs won't pick them up (i.e. *Actinomyces* sp, *Nocardia* sp)
- Never use swabs when you have fluid, tissue or feces!

We offer 24 hour preliminary results  
Microbiological clinical interpretations are performed by DVMs.

Completed accession forms must accompany samples.

Case information helps us to direct testing, saving time and improving quality of results.

We are happy to serve you!

Questions? Do not hesitate to contact us.

WADDL phone number

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### **Microbiology Residents:**

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### **Section Head:**

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For more info go to: [waddl.vetmed.wsu.edu/](http://waddl.vetmed.wsu.edu/)

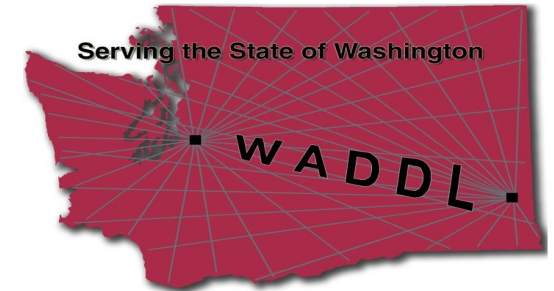


College of

**Veterinary Medicine**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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## Bacteriology SPECIMEN COLLECTION

### **Accurate results require:**

- \* Proper Specimen Collection
- \* Appropriate Transport Devices
- \* Timely Shipping



WADDL is fully accredited by the  
[American Association of Veterinary  
Laboratory Diagnosticians](#)

# Specimen Selection

Your sample should represent the disease process, so keep in mind:

Normal flora may overgrow and prevent detection of a true pathogen.

Proper sample site preparation (i.e. surgical prep).

Sample should be collected from the lesion edge.

Take your sample before the use of antimicrobials. If this is not possible, indicate antimicrobial therapy and duration on accession form.

A swab should NEVER be submitted if biopsy material, fluid, urine, feces or tissue is available.

Sample size should be sufficient for the number of test requested.

Multiple specimens may be required in some cases.

When a fastidious and/or anaerobic bacterial infection is suspected use the appropriate sample type, media and method of transport.



**Have proper containers on hand!**

Do not be surprised, plan ahead of time

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Skin

Biopsies  
Deep pustule aspiration

Port-A-Cul ® tube

### Abscess / Wound

Fluids are the best  
Exudates are acceptable

Port-A-Cul ® tube for swabs  
Sterile tube for abscess content

### Tissue biopsies

Port-A-Cul ® tube

### Blood Culture

Three different cultures at different times

Blood Culture bottles  
Isolator® tubes

### CSF

Depends on time  
(See transport devices)

Blood Culture Bottle  
Port-A-Cul ® Vial  
Sterile tube

### Joints / Synovial fluids

Depends on time  
(See transport devices)

Blood Culture Bottle  
Port-A-Cul ® Vial  
Sterile tube

### Other fluids

Pleural, peritoneal and pericardial  
Depends on time  
(See transport devices)

Port-A-Cul ® Vial  
Sterile tube

### Urine

Cystocentesis is the best option  
Please state method of collection

Sterile tube

### Feces

Screw-top cup  
Special transport media when required (i.e. *Campylobacter*)

**Suspecting Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, Ureaplasma or Viral disease?**

Universal Viral transport Medium or **CALL THE LAB!**

### Bone

Tissue biopsies / Deep aspirates

Port-A-Cul ® tube or vial

### Eye

Conjunctival scrapings  
Aspirates of vitreous humor (Swabs are acceptable)

Port-A-Cul ® tube or vial

### Respiratory

TTW / BAL  
Nasopharyngeal swabs are not recommended

Sterile tube

### Milk

Freeze sample if it cannot be delivered within 48 hours after collection

Sterile tube

### Hair, scale, crust

For dermatophyte cultures  
DON'T refrigerate

Paper envelope  
Red-top tube  
Whirl-pak ® bags

### Ear

Bacterial culturette or  
Port-A-Cul ® tube

### Reproductive

Port-A-Cul tube (biopsy), vial (fluids) or swabs

### Necropsy tissues

At least 2 x 2 cm of tissue (labeled separately)

Whirl Pack Bags ®

## Shipping / Storage

- The sooner the sample is processed, the better!
- Place the transport device in a closed Whirl-pak bag ® (all samples require a secondary container)
- Keep samples cool (4°C) before and during transport
- DO NOT refrigerate: CSF, Blood Cultures (Isolators/Bottles), hair, scale, crust