

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
- Never use swabs when you have fluid, tissue or feces

- *We offer 24 hour preliminary results
- *Test 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.

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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, but make sure you avoid normal flora.

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 tissue, fluid, or feces 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

Two samples from different sites recommended

Blood Culture bottles
Isolator® tubes

CSF

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

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

Lower 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 bag or secondary container
- Keep samples cool (4°C) before and during transport
- DO NOT refrigerate: CSF, Blood Cultures (Isolators/Bottles), hair, scale, crust