What forms do I fill out?

Please fill out our Avian Diagnostic Accession Form at: http://waddl.vetmed.wsu.edu/avian/forms-avian. Make sure that each sample is labeled with the appropriate name or animal ID that you list on the accession form.

How much does it cost?

AHFSL has over 70 available tests. Please use the Web Test Search Tool located at: http://waddl.vetmed.wsu.edu/search-tests. In the “Search” box, type “Puyallup” to see a list of the tests we offer, or the test name. To see prices and descriptions, click on the “Details” box next to the test you’re interested in. For a quote, please call our office at 253-445-4537.

How do I get my results?

The fastest method to receive results is to sign up for online access if you are an established client in good financial standing. To obtain online access, go to: https://ahfsl.vetmed.wsu.edu/newaccount.php to fill out a request form and answer a few security questions. Please fill out the form for online access AFTER you have submitted a sample.

Once the results are verified and reviewed by our Branch Chief, you’ll receive an email with a link to view and print your reports. There is also a link to pay your invoice with a Visa or MasterCard.

For first time submitting owners, the Branch Chief may email or mail results to the address listed on the accession form. If a veterinarian is also listed on the form, then the results are sent to the veterinarian as well.

It is okay to send multiple samples in the same box. In the case of submissions from multiple owners in a collective group (e.g. 4H group), the results will be sent to a single person/address indicated on the top of the accession form. However, to ensure confidentiality, we recommend submitting samples individually so each owner receives a report for just their animal(s).

Please note: we are not allowed to revise reports once the report is finalized because the report constitutes a legal document.
About WADDL’s AHFSL

The Avian Health and Food Safety Laboratory (AHFSL) is a specialty branch of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL), located in Puyallup. The main laboratory for WADDL is located in Pullman. Both are AAVLD accredited, nationally recognized, full-service veterinary testing laboratories.

Our branch chief, Dr. Rocio Crespo, has over 20 years of experience as a poultry veterinarian and diagnostician. She joined AHFSL-WADDL nine years ago and has been instrumental in improving poultry disease diagnosis tests. We have a dedicated and knowledgeable staff who are always willing to assist you with your testing needs.

AHFSL can offer you help with:

- diagnosing sick animals
- determining cause of infertility and low hatchability
- monitoring flock health
- maintaining biosecurity
- optimizing disease prevention
- meeting test requirements for
  - 4H, fair and exhibition
  - export and import transportation

Frequently Asked Questions:

My bird is sick, what test do I need?

We encourage you to work with your local veterinarian to determine specific testing needs. Be ready to provide the following information:
- number of birds in the flock
- number of ill/dead birds, age of affected birds, duration of the condition, type of feed, vaccinations, and treatments.

How do I know if my birds have Marek’s?

The most reliable and inexpensive way to diagnose Marek’s disease is by observation of typical lesions. Many times these changes can be seen during necropsy (autopsy), but other times microscopic examination is needed. Serology (finding antibodies in the blood) is not a reliable test for diagnosis of Marek’s disease. Molecular tests from blood are available, but are expensive (over $150 per sample).

Why do my birds have weepy and crusty eyes?

Respiratory conditions may be caused by excess ammonia/dust, Mycoplasma (MG and MS), infectious coryza, infectious laryngotracheitis virus (ILT), and other viruses.

Detection of antibodies in the blood is the least expensive way to find out if a bird has been exposed to some of these respiratory pathogens. Unfortunately, blood tests cannot detect recent infection, nor determine if the disease is still ongoing because antibodies remain in the blood even when the pathogen is gone.

Pathogen detection can be achieved by molecular techniques and culture. Positive results with these methods reveal current infection. Molecular tests can be more expensive yet recommended because they have a faster turnaround time and are not influenced by possible contamination with microorganisms present in the oral cavity or skin.

My birds have diarrhea.
Can I submit fecal samples?

Fecal samples may be submitted for parasite detection (e.g. coccidia, round worms).

The presence of Salmonella can also be tested from feces samples. Because feces contain numerous bacteria, and many are normal gut flora, we will test for other bacteria as justified.

How do I send a bird for necropsy (autopsy)?

Live birds can be delivered in person or by US Postal Service overnight. Dead birds can also be delivered in person or sent overnight through USPS or a commercial courier. Dead birds should be delivered to the lab within 5 days of its death.

Wet the bird’s feathers with soapy water, and place it in a plastic bag. Place the bagged bird and a few ice packs within a second plastic bag and seal. Place the bundle in a leak proof foam cooler, and place that in a cardboard shipping box. Also enclose in the box a completed diagnostic accession form (http://waddlvetmed.wsu.edu/avian/forms/avian) and ship it to AHFSL in Puyallup.

You may submit up to three birds together as one case for the single necropsy fee as long as they are from the same species, age group, and flock.

If I want to show my birds at a fair/exhibition, what are the tests I need?

Flocks that are not NPIP certified (see below) need to be tested for Pullorum and Fowl Typhoid prior the show. A trained person (private practitioner, vet tech, owner, etc.) can collect blood samples and send them to us with an AHFSL diagnostic accession form.

What does NPIP certification mean?

The National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) is a voluntary national program, renewable annually. The NPIP was established to eradicate Pullorum disease (caused by Salmonella Pullorum) and Fowl Typhoid (S. Gallinarum) from all poultry in the U.S. The NPIP goals include provisions for the control of egg-transmitted and hatchery disseminated diseases of poultry, offer sanitation guidelines, and deliver a mechanism for movement of poultry and poultry products.

In Washington, flocks that have NPIP certification under Subpart E (Special Provisions for Hobbyist and Exhibition Waterfowl, Exhibition Poultry, and Game Bird Breeding Flocks and Products) must follow basic sanitation principles on the farm, and the birds are negative to Pullorum disease, Fowl Typhoid, and Avian Influenza.

How do I get it there?

Clients may bring samples directly to our laboratory. We also receive deliveries from the US Postal Service, Fed Ex, UPS, and other couriers. Our address can be found on the back of this brochure.