

BOVINE INFERTILITY – SAMPLE COLLECTION – CULTURE / PCR
[*Campylobacter fetus* subsp *venerealis* and *Tritrichomonas foetus*]



TRICAMPER™ SAMPLING DEVICE

A. Preputial samples for *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* or *Tritrichomonas foetus*

Materials:

Campylobacter culture kit (bulls): Each kit contains 1 campylobacter enrichment medium (CEM) and 1 tricamper sampling tool

Trichomonas PCR kit (recommended for diagnostic testing): Each kit contains 1 saline diluent and 1 tricamper sampling tool

Trichomonas culture kit (health/export testing only): Each kit contains 1 trichomonas medium (TFM) and 1 tricamper sampling tool

Method:

1. Collect preputial samples by using a fresh tricamper to inoculate each medium, where applicable (e.g., sterile saline, CEM and/or TFM) as follows:
2. Whilst holding the anterior aspect on the sheath with one hand, insert the sampling tool into the prepuce, with the end adjacent to the penis.
3. Move the tricamper back and forward, so that it scrapes across the preputial mucosa and surface of the penis. Block the end of the tricamper (e.g. with a finger) to prevent any of the collected material being suctioned out and remove the tricamper from the prepuce.
4. Hold the tricamper just off horizontal, insert the tip into the tube of the appropriate media (see materials above) and remove the block from the end of the tricamper. Cut the black head off the tricamper with side-cutters into the media. Leave the tricamper in the liquid and replace the lid securely. Repeat, if applicable, for each kit using a fresh tricamper from the same animal for each tube, again leaving the tricamper in the tube for transport and enrichment.
5. Forward the inoculated media and/or the saline suspension to the laboratory.
Inoculated CEM and TFM, should be returned to the laboratory immediately where possible. Where this is not possible, a delay of 1 to 3 days for CEM and 1 to 2 days for TFM is acceptable. Delays beyond this reduce the sensitivity of the test and ability to recover *Campylobacter* and *Trichomonas* organisms.
NB. Inoculated CEM and/or TFM should be stored at room temperature and transported without chilling. Saline samples may be sent chilled if the shipment does not contain CEM or TFM.

B. Vaginal mucus samples for *Tritrichomonas foetus*

Materials:

Trichomonas PCR kit (recommended for diagnostic testing): Each kit contains 1 saline diluent and 1 tricamper sampling tool
 OR

Trichomonas culture kit (health/export testing only): Each kit contains 1 trichomonas medium (TFM) and 1 tricamper sampling tool

Method:

1. Collect vaginal mucus samples into sterile saline for PCR, or and inoculate the TFM for culture, as follows:
2. Open the vulva with one hand and insert a tricamper in a dorso-cranial direction with the leading edge of the tricamper in contact with the dorsal vagina. Once there is no risk of the tricamper entering the urethra, progress entry to a cranial movement as for artificial breeding so that the anterior end reaches the cervix.
3. Move the tricamper back and forward. Block the end of the tricamper (e.g., with a finger) to prevent any of the collected material being suctioned out and remove the tricamper from the vulva.
4. Hold the tricamper just off horizontal, insert the tip into the appropriate media (see materials above) and remove the block from the end of the tricamper. Cut the black head off the tricamper with side-cutters into the tube. Leave the device in the medium and replace the lid securely. Repeat, if applicable, for each kit using a fresh tricamper.
5. Forward the inoculated media and the saline suspension to the laboratory.
Inoculated TFM, should be returned to the laboratory immediately where possible. Where this is not possible, a delay of 1 to 2 days is acceptable. Delays beyond this reduce the sensitivity of the test and ability to recover *Trichomonas* organisms.
NB. Inoculated TFM should be stored at room temperature and transported without chilling. Saline samples may be sent chilled if the shipment does not contain TFM