

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

To order Tricamper™ Sampling Devices ONLY (without sampling media), for despatch to any destination, contact Tick Fever Centre:

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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 (diagnostic or health testing): Each kit contains 1 saline diluent and 1 tricamper sampling tool

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

Method:

1. Collect preputial samples by using a fresh tricamper for each the 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 saline and remove the block from the end of the tricamper. Cut the black head off the tricamper with side-cutters into the saline. Leave the tricamper in the liquid and replace the lid securely. Repeat for the CEM and TFM media 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.
Do not refrigerate or freeze the samples when both saline and CEM/TFM are being sent. Saline samples should be sent chilled if the shipment does not contain CEM/TFM.

B. Vaginal mucus samples for *Tritrichomonas foetus***Materials:**

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

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

Method:

1. Collect vaginal mucus samples in sterile saline and inoculate the TFM 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 saline 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 for the TFM with a fresh tricamper.
5. Forward the inoculated media and the saline suspension to the laboratory.
Do not refrigerate or freeze the samples when both saline and TFM are being sent. Saline samples should be sent chilled if the shipment does not contain TFM.