

SAMPLE PREPARATION AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

SMALL ANIMAL / MICROBIOLOGY / PARASITOLOGY

1. Submission form and a purchase order must accompany each shipment.
2. Advance 24 to 48 hr. notification of all shipments allows for the most efficient processing of samples.
3. Receiving Department is closed on Sundays and holidays.
4. Advance notification of all shipments allows for the most efficient processing of samples.

Ship Samples to:

Attn: VRL
401 Professional Drive
Suite 210
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Questions: Call Client Services at 301-610-2521 or 800-804-3586, fax 240-686-6776 or visit www.vrl.net

LIVE ANIMAL

Ship animals in filter protected boxes with a source of food and moisture appropriate for the species. Provide adequate identification.

BACTERIOLOGY

Transport Swabs – Swabs in culturette-type transports with semi-solid media must extend into the media. Seal caps with either parafilm or tape to prevent leakage. Activate ampule-type culturettes before shipment (i.e., break the ampule). If samples are to be in transit more than 24 hours, place a cold pack in an insulated shipping container.

Plates and Broth Media – Seal plates and tubes with tape or parafilm to prevent leakage and contamination. Invert plates (media on top) for shipping and ship tubes in an upright position. Ship at ambient temperature.

Aerobic Culture - If possible, use culturette-type swabs for fecal matter, and follow the instructions above. If culturettes are unavailable, place feces in non-breakable, leak-proof, screw cap vial with sufficient sterile phosphate buffered saline (PBS) added to maintain moisture. Seal vials with parafilm or tape and ship in an upright position. If samples are to be in transit more than 24 hours, place a cold pack in the shipping container.

Anaerobic Culture - If possible, use culturette-type swabs containing a Cary-Blair transport medium for fecal matter, and follow the instructions above. If culturettes are unavailable, place feces in non-breakable, leak-proof, screw cap vial with sufficient sterile phosphate buffered saline (PBS) added to maintain moisture. Place the vial into an anaerobic bag or Gas-Pak which removes oxygen gas. Seal vials with parafilm or tape and ship in an upright position. If samples are to be in transit more than 24 hours, place a cold pack in the shipping container.

PARASITOLOGY

Sedimentation (for helminth ova, protozoal oocyst, and cysts) - Place feces in a non-breakable, leak-proof vial with 1 part feces to 3 parts 10% formalin. Seal vials with tape or parafilm and ship in an upright position at ambient temperature.

Wet mount (Formalin-fixed sample for protozoal cysts) – Place feces in a non-breakable, leak-proof vial with sufficient sterile saline to liquefy sample. Add 10% formalin (1 part feces to 3 parts 10% formalin). Seal vials with tape or parafilm and ship in an upright position at ambient temperature.

Wet Mount (Fresh sample for protozoal trophozoites) - Live rodents and/or rabbits should be sent to VRL for this assay. Please see instructions above for shipping animals.

Tape Test (for presence of pinworm ova) – Using a piece of clear cellophane tape, firmly press against the animal's anus. Place the tape onto a glass microscope slide (be sure to label the slide with animal ID). Send slides at ambient temperature in a non-breakable container or slide box.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

RODAC Plates - Seal plates with tape or parafilm to prevent contamination. Invert plates for shipping. Ship at ambient temperature.

Water Analysis Collect - ~40ML water in three (3) sterile 50 ml conical tubes, secure lids with para-film to avoid leakage in transit. Avoid exposure to light. Ship at ambient temperature.

Environmental Swabs - Swabs in culturette-type transports with semi-solid media must extend into the media. Seal caps with either parafilm or tape to prevent leakage. Activate ampule-type culturettes before shipment (i.e., break the ampule). If samples are to be in transit more than 24 hours, place a cold pack in an insulated shipping container.

