

## Bacteriology Specimen Submissions

Suggestions for submitting samples for bacteriologic examination to ensure diagnostic integrity include:

1. Collect all samples aseptically. Label all specimens and submission forms clearly, including animal ID and tissue (site) collected. Submit only 5-10 g of tissue that includes the lesion to be cultured.
2. Keep intestines separate from other organs. Tie-off ends of intestines to be cultured for anaerobic isolates to help ensure anaerobiosis.
3. Use a leak proof container for transport. A screw-cap container is best. Whirl-pak bags are unsuitable for liquid specimens. Disposable OB sleeves are NEVER to be used as transport containers. Submit swabs in appropriate transport media, with the media ampule crushed.
4. Many organisms are fragile and fastidious. Ship specimens refrigerated via overnight or 2 day carrier.
5. Provide as much clinical information as possible. Include any antimicrobial drugs given and time of treatment before samples were collected. Indicate on submission form if antimicrobial susceptibility testing is desired. Provide differential diagnosis of pathogens suspected.
6. Contact the laboratory prior to submitting more than ten samples in one accession.

## Shipping Guidelines

Ohio Department of Agriculture  
Division of Animal Industry  
Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab  
8995 E Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
Phone: 614.728.6220

*Please submit the appropriate specimen for the desired test. Federal regulations govern the packaging and labeling of diagnostic samples. Many couriers refuse to handle packages that are leaking or show signs of internal breakage. Please check the Saf-T-Pak website for more information on shipping diagnostic or exempt samples.*

Instructions:

1. Ship specimens in appropriate leak-proof containers.
2. Screw-cap closures must be reinforced with tape and/or double enclosed.
3. Label each specimen container with owner's last name, animal name/number and type of specimen.
4. Double bag specimens shipped in whirl-pak bags.
5. Add absorbent material to prevent leakage should breakage occur.