

This procedure outlines sample collection for **antibody testing** to look for exposure to *Campylobacter fetus* subspecies *venerealis* ('Vibriosis'). If you are sampling for culture (i.e. direct identification of organisms), please refer to the method for *Campylobacter* culture.

Description

Bovine Venereal Campylobacteriosis (BVC) is caused by *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* and characterised by early embryonic death and infertility. Abortion occurs in a 5-10% of infected cows.

The Campylobacter ELISA detects mucosal (IgA) antibodies in the vaginal mucus of infected cattle and is useful for infertility and abortion investigations where *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* infection is suspected.

Samples from Abortions

The ELISA can be used to diagnose abortion in individual animals. Animals which have aborted may be sampled 1 week to 3 months following abortion.

Samples from Infertility

The ELISA is offered as a herd test in cases of infertility where BVC infection is suspected. Representative numbers of animals (usually 10) are sampled.

In herds where abortion occurs, and infertility exists, samples can be collected from both groups.

Equipment Required (available from the [laboratory upon request](#))

1. Sterile cotton swab
2. Transport medium - 4.5 mL phosphate buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween 20 (PBST) – store at $5 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ once received, and maintain at this temperature during collection and transport to the laboratory.

Method

- Following cleaning of the perineum the sterile cotton swab is introduced into the vagina as cranially as possible. The swab should be pressed against the vaginal wall and turned a few times to ensure full saturation. Only slight faecal contamination of the swab is acceptable.
- Following sampling, the cotton head of the swab should be cut and placed in the supplied PBST, which has been maintained at $5 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Samples should be kept chilled during transport to the testing laboratory, preferably at $5 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$, to suppress microbial growth. Transporting the samples in an esky with some ice bricks is sufficient. Samples should be submitted with a completed specimen advice form to the testing laboratory within 2 or 3 days from sampling.

Please note: Sampling vaginal mucus with a Tricamper™ tool and submitting for antibody testing is not recommended.

Contact Us

For assistance or further information contact Customer Service.

Business hours:	8:30am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays)
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Reference

Hum S, Stephens LR, Quinn C. (1991) Diagnosis by ELISA of bovine abortion due to *Campylobacter fetus* Aust Vet J.68:272-5.