

This footrot sample collection kit instruction is a guide for the collection of samples for the isolation of *Dichelobacter nodosus* from footrot lesions.

Sample Collection Kit

Footrot culture kits are available from the EMAI (NSW DPIRD) upon request. Each footrot culture kit contains:

- The sample collection guide
- Specimen advice form (<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/sample-submission>)
- 5 x sterile swabs
- 5 x footrot transport media (FTM)

N.B. Store unused media at 4°C. **The transport media will remain satisfactory providing the indicator in the medium has not turned blue and the bottle is full** and should be used before the expiry date on the bottle. Care is required with transport of unused transport media during hot weather. It is preferable to keep the media chilled. **Please return expired transport media to EMAI.**

Collection instructions

1. Check each bottle of transport media. The FTM should be opaque and colourless (Figure 1). **Do not use the bottle if the indicator in the medium has turned blue or if the bottle is not full.**
2. Using the cotton tipped sterile swab provided, collect sample material from the active area of a lesion.
3. Remove the lid and push the swab deep into the FTM, break the swab off level with lip of the bottle and replace the lid firmly to create an airtight seal. Use one swab per bottle of FTM (Figure 2).
4. Refer to the Foot Scoring Details table included in the Specimen Advice Form to label bottles to identify the animal sampled. Record the details on the lid and adhesive label on the bottle with a water-proof permanent marker.
5. Transport medium should be returned to EMAI as soon as possible and kept cool during transit.



Note: Access to discounted Laboratory charges for *D. nodosus* isolation and elastase test is dependent on providing a full history. Such submissions provide valuable surveillance information to support the Footrot Strategic Plan. Where incomplete information is provided, surveillance value is reduced, and charges may apply.

Specimen Advice Form

Please ensure you provide a full case history with your submission. Such submissions provide valuable surveillance information to support the Footrot Strategic Plan. The following information has been provided to assist you complete the Footrot Specimen Advice Form.

Lameness rate: Lameness rate to be expressed as a percentage of sheep with lameness.

Lesion activity: The prevalence of new active lesions score ≥ 2 , provides an indicator of the level of footrot activity.

Environmental factors: The rating system assumes that three environmental factors are necessary for footrot to spread.

Environmental Factor	Score*	Description
1. Moisture	3 - Favourable	At least 6 weeks of rainfall averaging 50mm per month including at least 50 mm in the proceeding 4 weeks. (The presence of sufficient moisture in the pasture to wet your boots mid-morning is quite a good indication that conditions are favourable assuming temperature requirements are satisfied).
	2 – Marginal	If moisture is borderline favourable
	1 – Unfavourable	If above moisture conditions are not meet
2. Temperature	3 - Favourable	Mean daily temperature between 10°C and 20°C
	2 – Marginal	If temperature is borderline favourable
	1 – Unfavourable (cold)	If mean daily temperature is less than 10°C
	1 – Unfavourable (hot)	If mean daily temperature is more than 20°C
3. Pasture	3 - Favourable	Pasture is actively growing and contains a high percentage ($\geq 30\%$) of clover or similar low growing bulky moisture retaining herbage (e.g. capeweed)
	2 – Marginal	If pasture is borderline favourable
	1 – Unfavourable	If above pasture conditions are not meet

Environmental score: Environmental score expressed as the sum of environmental factor scores.

Contact Us

For assistance or further information contact Customer Service.

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