

## **Tritrichomonas foetus PCR Testing**

### **Storage and Shelf Life of In-pouches and Transit Tubes**

Do not refrigerate or freeze. Store at room temperature horizontally, away from direct light. Do not use expired tests. Do not use if the liquid appears to be cloudy, leaking, dark brown or dried.

### **Sample Preparation**

Clip the hair around the preputial orifice in bulls. Flush the preputial cavity with sterile saline solution (not water) to clean out the mud and manure if necessary (decreases the risk of overgrowth of non *T. foetus* bacterium).

### **Sample Collection**

*Bulls:* direct the pipette to the distal penis in the sheath. Scrape the mucosa of the distal penis and the fornix area while applying suction with syringe or bulb to obtain the specimen.

*Cows:* advance the pipette gently to the floor of the vaginal fornix, and aspirate mucus.

The following website has an excellent video of *Tritrichomonas foetus* and *Campylobacter foetus* sampling.

<http://genex.crinet.com/page1475/campylobacter>

### **Preparation of In-pouch or Transit Tube (label the in-pouch/transit tube with the sample related information)**

*In-pouch:* manually express the liquid so that all the liquid is in the lower chamber. Open the pouch by tearing off the top.

There is a pre-formed score to facilitate tearing. Use the integral white tabs to open and secure the mouth of the pouch open.

*Transit Tube:* Open the transit tube by twisting the cap off. Be sure to be ready to use the transit tubes as removing the cap breaks the seal.

### **Inoculation of Sample**

Insert the sample to the tube/pouch (0.5-1.0 mL of specimen). Secure the cap on the tube or express the entire contents of the pouch into the lower chamber. Avoid trapping air. Roll the pouch top tightly, until the wire-tape is at the top of the label and fold the wire tabs to seal the pouch.

### **Incubation and Shipping of Samples**

Incubate the In-pouches/Transit Tube at around 37°C (98°F) for 18-24 hours before freezing them at 20°C prior to shipping.

The incubation will increase the number of trich in the pouches and the freezing will then stop the growth of contaminating bacteria which can inhibit the PCR process. This will also make it easier for collection of samples at the end of the week, since once they are frozen there is no rush to get them to the lab. If you do not have an incubator, you can take a Styrofoam container and insert a microwaved ice pack (warm to the touch) or a hand warmer to create a make-shift incubator. Don't put the In-pouches/Transit Tubes directly on the heat source as they may over-heat. Once they have incubated for a day, freeze the In-pouches/Transit Tubes and ship them to the lab on ice packs. If you are unable to incubate the samples for the first 24 hours, don't freeze the samples just ship them at room temperature. Please indicate on your submission form if the samples have been incubated and frozen or not.

For more information about the In-pouches and Transit Tubes or for facts and information about *T. foetus* go to

<http://www.biomeddiagnostics.com/inpouch-tf-bovine/>

Please feel free to contact the VDC bacteriology staff at 402-472-8470 with any questions.