

The BADDL offers real-time PCR assay for the detection of *Tritrichomonas foetus*:

Sample type

Bovine - It is important to collect the appropriate clinical samples. The preferred bovine specimens for the real-time Trich RT-PCR assay are fresh preputial swab/wash, smegma, or cervical-vaginal mucus inoculated into InPouch™ TF subculture media before submitting to the laboratory.

Feline - The preferred feline specimens for the real-time Trich RT-PCR assay are InPouch™ rectal swabs or fresh feces inoculated into TF Feline subculture media.

Up to five samples may be pooled to save costs. However, InPouch™ must contain individual samples: pooling will be conducted at the Bronson Lab by BADDL staff. Clinical cases will NOT be pooled.

Samples in Lactated Ringers Solution (LRS) – received within 24 hours (hand carried, UPS, FedEx or other courier is acceptable) of collection may be accepted. Lactated Ringers Solution is to be used for emergency situations only. If LRS is used as the transport media, the lab will transfer the sample to a chosen growth media and the client will be charged for that media.

Trichomonas culture is only available for EXPORT purposes when the country of destination will not accept PCR test results.



Bovine smegma collection procedure

Begin with a labeled, un-expired InPouch™ TF.

Safely restrain the bull.

Trim the sheath hair.

Lavage the sheath with a minimal amount of saline to clean away dirt.

With a new 12cc syringe and a guarded pipette, introduce the pipette to the sheath and aggressively apply a steady vacuum, but not so aggressively as to draw blood.

Insert the pipette with sample into the upper opening of the InPouch™ and eject the sample. Pipette some fluid back into and out of the pipette to ensure that the sample is fully ejected.

Close the pouch by rolling down from the top, making sure that all the liquid is squeezed into the lower portion of the pouch. Secure the pouch with the tabs.

Feline sample collection

Swab rectally with a sterile swab and express the sample in a labeled, un-expired InPouch™ TF Feline.

Alternatively, add approximately 0.03 grams of fresh feces to a labeled, un-expired InPouch™ TF Feline.

Close the pouch by rolling down from the top, making sure that all the liquid is squeezed into the lower portion of the pouch. Secure the pouch with the tabs.



Shipping/Transport

Wrap each InPouch™ in a paper towel and seal inside a zippered plastic bag. Place this in a shipping container with packing materials such as bubble wrap to prevent excessive shifting during transport.

Include a BADDL submission form in a zippered plastic bag inside the container or between the container and the box. Be sure to write “Trich foetus PCR” under Tests Requested. Date and time of collection must also be included on the form if the samples are to be tested by PCR rather than by culture and microscopy.



Samples MUST be: a) received at the lab within 48 hours of collection, b) protected from light, and c) kept in the range of 15-37°C (59-98.6°F) using appropriate warming packs. *Do not chill the samples: this will stop the growth of the organism and decrease the detection capability of the PCR assay.*

If samples cannot be transferred to the lab within 48 hours, they may be incubated at 36-37°C (96.8-98.6°F) for 48 hours, at which point they can be kept refrigerated for transfer to the lab. DO NOT chill samples unless they have been incubated for at least 48 hours – this period allows for the multiplication of any *Tritrichomonas* present and increases the detection capability of the PCR assay. If and only if the samples have completed the 48 hour incubation, they should be shipped overnight on ice-packs.

If the samples have been incubated, indicate on the submission form the number of hours incubated and the temperature. BADDL prefers to perform *Tritrichomonas* sample incubation at the lab where conditions are tightly controlled and monitored for best test performance. Therefore, reasonable effort should be made to send samples to the lab within 48 hours of collection.

Turnaround Time (TAT)

Trich InPouch™ samples must be incubated for 48 hours prior to testing by PCR. Test results can be expected within 2-3 business days following the incubation period. Therefore, total turnaround time is approximately 5-6 days. Please contact the Molecular Diagnostics Section at the Bronson lab (321-697-1400) with any questions.

Cost

Individual Trich RT-PCR tests are \$17 each. Each pooled test is \$30.

If a pooled sample returns positive results, each sample from the pool will be retested individually at \$17 each. Samples will not be retested and clients will not be charged without client permission.

Tritrichomonas culture is only available for EXPORT purposes. If the Trich culture test is positive, PCR confirmation for *T. foetus* will be performed at a cost of \$22 (\$17 PCR + \$5 culture).

Submitters may obtain Trich InPouch™ media from the laboratory at \$6/pouch plus the cost of shipping.



BRONSON Animal Disease Diagnostic LABORATORY (BADDL)

ADDRESS AND CONTACT

Bronson Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

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www.FreshFromFlorida.com/ai



- *Tritrichomonas foetus* (Trich) Testing
- Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)

Florida Department of
Agriculture and Consumer Services