



PARASITOLOGY SECTION

Services rendered by the section

- a) Faecal egg counts of sheep, goats, cattle, horses, and chickens (i.e. roundworms, coccidia and tapeworms)
- b) Flukes examination
- c) Larval culture and Larval identification
- d) Identification of external and internal parasites (e.g. Adult Worms and Ticks)

Sample submission

1. Collection and submission of faecal samples for egg counts

(i.e. Roundworm, coccidia, Tapeworm and Liver or Conical Flukes)

- Take faecal samples directly from the rectum of the animal (preferable 10 animals from each herd/flock).

NOTE: Do not collect faeces from the ground → Eggs hatch very quickly and therefore faeces collected from the ground can give false negative results.

- Place each sample in a well-marked plastic bag (small coin bags work very well)

NOTE: Different herds should be sampled separately.

Send sufficient faecal samples (e.g. one heaped spoon or approximately 10g of faeces for animals such as sheep, goats and cattle and approximately 50g of faeces for horses, for each test required).

- Samples should be kept cool until they reach the laboratory (to ensure that the worm-eggs do not hatch). They can be refrigerated at 4 – 8°C for a day or two, if it is not possible to transport them to the laboratory immediately.

NOTE: Do not freeze the samples; the eggs burst and a false negative result is obtained.



2. Submission of samples for larval culture

- When larval culture identification is required, a sample can be taken from the flock as a whole.
 - ✓ Take a representative sample (i.e. the same amount of faeces from each animal being sampled).
 - ✓ A minimum of 50g of faeces is required for the test, but a larger sample will make the test easier.
 - ✓ Samples should be kept cool until they reach the laboratory.

3. Submission of samples for external / internal parasite identification

- Both external and internal parasites must preferably be collected in 70% alcohol or 10% formalin, but methylated spirits can also be used.
- Place parasites in a container with a screw cap that seals tightly, so that the content does not leak out.

NOTE: If live parasites like ticks are sent, ensure that the parasites cannot escape from the container they are sent in.

*****VERY IMPORTANT*****

WHEN SAMPLES ARE SUBMITTED TO THE LABORATORY, PLEASE ENSURE THE CURRENT SUBMISSION FORM IS COMPREHENSIVELY COMPLETED, TOGETHER WITH THE ADDITIONAL FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Relevant information of the owner or referring veterinarian must be included.
- Collection date of the samples.
- In the case of parasites that are sent for identification, state the part of the body from which the parasite was collected.
- History of any previous drenches or anti-parasitic treatment must be included.
- Date of treatment, as well as remedy used and dose administered, must also be included.

The above information helps with administration and may be of diagnostic value.



Test Fees

Please refer to the current test and fees list or contact the laboratory for fees on tests requested.

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