

DIRECTORATE: VETERINARY SERVICES

Allerton P.V.L., 458 Town Bush Road, Pietermaritzburg, 3201 KZN Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Private Bag X2, Cascades, 3202 Tel: 033 347 6200 Fax: 033 347 1633

PCR SECTION

The PCR section makes use of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology to detect the DNA, or RNA, of specific disease-causing microorganisms. Molecular-based tests are characterised by their specificity and sensitivity and offer additional advantages in that viable micro-organisms are not required for diagnosis and that tests can be carried out quickly (1-2 working days).

The PCR section currently has assays in place for the following organisms

Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) Mycoplasma synoviae (MS) Avibacterium paragallinarum (Coryza) Tritrichomonas foetus Campylobacter fetus

Collection and sending of samples

Samples should be kept cool following collection and shipped to the lab as soon as possible. Although PCR tests do not require viable micro-organisms for detection, it is imperative that samples are collected and stored appropriately to avoid deterioration and possible degradation of target DNA. It is therefore recommended that samples reach the laboratory within 72 hours of collection.

TEST	SAMPLE REQUIRED
Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG)	Trachea or Tracheal swab
Mycoplasma synoviae (MS)	Trachea or Tracheal swab Joint swab
Tritrichomonas foetus	Bull sheath scrape or wash (in PBS, skim milk or transport medium) Foetal material (abomasal fluid)
Campylobacter fetus	



- All samples submitted must be clearly marked with an identification number or Farm name.
- The laboratory's <u>current submission form</u> must be comprehensively completed and submitted with samples.

Test Fees

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

Section Contact Details

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