



agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform

Department:  
agriculture, environmental affairs,  
rural development and land reform .  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Northern Cape Provincial Veterinary  
Laboratory Services**

**QP 7.3**

**SAMPLING GUIDELINES**

**EDITION: 06**

# **SAMPLING GUIDELINES**

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**Effective date:**  
**January 2022**

**Controlled**  
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## I. INTRODUCTION

### I.1 BUSINESS HOURS

The Northern Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (NCPVL) is open for business Mondays to Fridays from 07:30-16:00 hrs.

### I.2 SAMPLE SUBMISSION & FEES

All individual samples must be **LEGIBLY IDENTIFIED, SHOULD** be accompanied by **A COMPLETED NCPVL SUBMISSION FORM**. Each animal species should have its own submission form. Incomplete submission forms may result in a delay in the testing of samples as only samples with complete information will be tested. Submission forms are available from the laboratory and can be requested telephonically on 087 630 0349/053 832 8145, Fax 086 5777 051 or via the email address [ncape.vetlab@gmail.com](mailto:ncape.vetlab@gmail.com). A BR 5 form together with the NCPVL submission form must accompany samples for Bovine Brucellosis testing. BR5 forms may be obtained from your State Veterinarian. **ALL FORMS MUST BE LEGIBLE, NO SCRATCHING.**

Testing services offered by the NCPVL as well as the details of samples that are required are listed in this document in the form of a table..

If samples are referred or subcontracted for testing at another laboratory, additional fees will be applicable and payable to the relevant laboratory except if the disease under investigation is a controlled disease. Consequently, the customer who submitted the samples or the person indicated as being responsible for the account on the submission form will be requested to pay the additional fee.

Please pay attention to the sample type, quality and amount as the accuracy of any diagnosis depends on the quality of the sample submitted. Where applicable, include a comprehensive animal history in the spaces provided on the reverse side of the submission form. High risk cases e.g. Rabies must be clearly marked on the sample packaging.

Sample may be hand delivered to the laboratory or couriered to: Northern Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory, Old Teacher's Centre, Corner Boshof Road and Lanyon Terrace, Kimberley, 8301.

### I.3 TEST REPORTS

As per amendments to Regulation 12 of section 31 of the Animal Diseases Act (Act 35 of 1984) and requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, results/reports for controlled and notifiable diseases will be released to the relevant state veterinary office and their private veterinarian. Test results for non-controlled diseases shall be released as indicated by the sender on the submission form. In some cases, in addition to the person indicated on the submission form, the results may also be sent to the relevant state veterinary office.



## 2. TESTING SERVICES AND SAMPLE SUBMISSION DETAILS.

This document covers testing services offered by the NCPVL only however, NCPVL will gladly advice and supply information on sampling requirements for tests outside this scope.

Test required	Sample type and amount	Assay/Test method	Suitable sample	Unsuitable sample	Transport requirements
Bovine brucellosis ( <i>Brucella abortus</i> )	6-10ml of whole clotted blood (Red top, yellow top blood tube) OR 1ml of serum	Rose Bengal test (RBT)	Clear serum/Clotted blood sample with clear serum	Unclotted blood, haemolysed blood sample.	Blood/serum must be transported cooled. Blood samples should reach the lab within 2 days for red top tubes and 5 days for spun yellow tubes of collection. Yellow top tubes must be spun to separate the red blood cells from the serum. Otherwise the serum must be separated and refrigerated.
Bovine Brucellosis ( <i>Brucella abortus</i> )	6-10ml of whole clotted blood (Red top, yellow top blood tube) OR 1ml of serum	Complement Fixation Test (CFT)	Clear serum/Clotted blood sample with clear serum	Unclotted blood, haemolysed blood sample.	Samples must be transported cooled. Blood samples should reach the lab within 2 days for red top tubes and 5 days for spun yellow tubes of collection. Yellow top tubes must be spun to separate the red blood cells from the serum. Otherwise the serum must be

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					separated and refrigerated.
Anthrax ( <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> )	Soil, Tissue (e.g. ear or bone)	PCR	All samples are suitable (fresh, dry, decomposed)	-	Strictly adhere to the 3 layer packaging system as this is a zoonotic disease.
Vibriosis ( <i>Campylobacter fetus</i> )	Sheath wash/sheath scraping in either Phosphate buffered saline (PBS)/ Steve's transport media.	PCR	Cool sample received within 5 days of collection.	Samples older than 5 days, samples contaminate with blood and/urine.	Samples must be cooled immediately after collection and should reach the laboratory within 5 days of collection for both PBS and Steve's media samples.
<i>Trichomonas foetus</i>	Sheath wash/ sheath scraping in either Phosphate buffered saline (PBS)/ Steve's transport media.	PCR	Cool sample received within 5 days of collection.	Samples older than 5 days, samples contaminated with blood and/urine.	Samples must be cooled immediately after collection and should reach the laboratory within within 5 days of collection for both PBS and Steve's media samples.
Sheep scab ( <i>Psoroptes ovis</i> )	Wool and skin scrapings	Microscopic identification	Wool and skin scrapings taken from the edge of the suspect lesion.	-	Keep at ambient temperature. Samples should ideally be sealed and reach the laboratory within 7 days.
Full egg count(Nematodes, cestodes, coccidian)	At least 10 grams of faeces	Mc Master	Fresh faecal sample preferably collected directly from the rectum packed in a	Old sample, faeces picked from the ground.	Keep cool at 4-8 <sup>0</sup> C / on ice packs till the samples reach the laboratory. Samples should reach the lab



			plastic container or plastic bag (No paper towels).		within 24hours of collection.
Trematodes/Flukes	At least 10 grams of faeces	Sedimentation	Fresh faecal sample preferably collected directly from the rectum.	Old sample, faeces picked from the ground.	Keep cool at 4-8 <sup>o</sup> C / on ice packs till the samples reach the laboratory. Samples should reach the lab within 24hours of collection.
Pathology/Post-mortem	Whole animal carcass. For poultry, several carcasses must be submitted if possible. For pathological investigations of abortions, a whole carcass as well as the placenta must be submitted if possible.	Necropsy/Post-mortem. Further laboratory testing e.g. Histopathology, culture, etc. will be referred to ARC-OVI and these will be subject to additional fees payable to ARC-OVI unless if the diseases being investigated are state controlled diseases.	Whole animal carcass. Abortion materials should be clearly marked high risk.	Advanced decomposition.	Preferably cooled at 4-8 <sup>o</sup> C.
Smears (Blood, brain crush, cytology etc)	Dry non-stained smears	Microscopic examination	Dry smear on a clean slide.	Shattered or broken slide	Slides should be clearly identified/marked and packaged in protective packaging to prevent breakages.

### I. GUIDELINES FOR SAMPLE PACKAGING

The movement of infectious and diagnostic specimens presents a risk to the transporter, recipient, general public as well as the environment therefore as a precautionary measure, the Department of

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Transport has implemented legislation to govern the transport of these goods. Infectious and diagnostic specimens are required to be packaged and transported in compliance with the triple packaging system (Illustrated in the diagram on page 8) which in summary comprises of three layers namely:

1. Primary receptacle: A labelled primary watertight, leak-proof receptacle containing the specimen. The receptacle is wrapped in enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid in case of breakage.
2. Secondary receptacle: A second durable, watertight, leak-proof receptacle to enclose and protect the primary receptacle(s). Several wrapped primary receptacles may be placed in one secondary receptacle. Sufficient additional absorbent material must be used to cushion multiple primary receptacles.
3. Outer shipping package: The secondary receptacle is placed in an outer shipping package which protects it and its contents from outside influences such as physical damage and water while in transit.

Specimen data forms, letters and other types of information that identify or describe the specimen and also identify the shipper and receiver should be taped to the outside of the secondary receptacle.

