

Finn Pathologists

The Veterinary Laboratory

Samples For Microbiology

The following samples should be submitted for microbiology. If in doubt please feel free to contact our microbiology laboratory who will be happy to assist you:

- Bacterial culture - Aimes charcoal transport media swabs.
 - Fresh tissue in a sterile container with no more than 1-2 drops of sterile saline solution.
 - Any non-blood fluids in a plain sterile container (not EDTA). Please do not add formalin to samples submitted for bacteriology.
- Fungal culture
 - Scrapings of skin plus hair in a sterile container.
 - Fresh tissue in a sterile container with a maximum of 1-2 drops of sterile saline solution.
- Faecal analysis - 2-5 grams of fresh faeces in a sterile container.
- Urine analysis - 2-5ml of urine in a sterile container.
- Parasitology - Scrapings of skin plus hair.
- Blood culture - Specific blood culture bottles are available from the laboratory, free of charge, on request.

2. Avoid the following:

- Whilst boric acid is useful for preserving samples for bacteriology, it is not suitable for many of the tests carried out in the urinalysis. Please therefore send urine samples in plain sterile containers only for urinalysis and NOT boric acid.
- If submitting fresh tissue for culture please ensure that only 1-2 drops of sterile saline solution is added to keep the sample moist during transit. Please DO NOT send the sample 'swimming' in saline.
- Tissue samples from multiple areas should be sent in separately labelled containers to avoid cross contamination.

- When submitting blood culture bottles, the patient should have had no antibiotics for at least 48 hours (preferably 72 hours) before sampling.

3. Completing the submission form

A succinct and relevant clinical history should be provided for each case being submitted for microbiology. Please include the following information when completing the submission form:

- Client and animal names
- Species, breed, sex, neutered or not, age
- Date the sample was taken
- Site/area sampled
- Brief description of the affected area
- Details of underlying systemic disease
- Recent medication
- Any previous tests carried out and the previous laboratory code if appropriate