

PI-test® - Collection of Hair Samples

Sample collection kits

Sample collection packs for hair samples are available free of charge from the Virology Laboratory, EMAI (details below).

Samples

- **Collect long, thick hairs from the switch/brush of the tail.**
- **SHORT, FINE BODY HAIRS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS ANALYSIS.**
- It is important that hairs are clean and dry.
- It is essential that the hair roots (which are clearly visible as bulbous protrusions) are attached to the plucked hairs that are submitted for pestivirus analysis.
- To avoid cross-contamination of hairs from different animals, it may be necessary to wash hands and any instruments between samplings.

Sampling procedure

1. Write the animal identification on the sticker that will hold the hairs to the card. If there is more than one animal to be sampled, prepare a key list and write the KEY NUMBER (1, 2, 3, 4, etc) on the label and the animal identification on the key list sheet. The animal identification will appear on the laboratory report.
2. Select 15-20 tail hairs. Wrap the hairs around your finger or hold with pliers or a similar instrument, and pluck with a rapid, sharp upward motion. Repeat the procedure to obtain about 20 to 30 hairs. The hooked or bulbous hair roots plucked from under the skin should be clearly visible.
3. Secure the hairs to the card with the sticker provided so that the hair roots are placed over the appropriate box. Trim any hair that extends more than 1-2 cm beyond the sticker. Hairs should not be longer than the card.
4. Place the card with trimmed hair into the plastic bag supplied. Keep samples cool at all times until shipment.
5. Submit samples to the laboratory as soon as possible and within 2 weeks of collection.

Sending samples to laboratory

1. Complete a Veterinary Laboratory Specimen Advice Form, with full details of the owner, person submitting the samples and full name and address of the veterinary practice. These details must be completed, or your samples may not be processed. Please select **PI-test (hair)** on the rear of the form.
2. Ensure that the total number of samples is shown on the form together with the sample key numbers and corresponding animal identification. If there is a large number of samples, attach a separate key list.
3. Samples and the accompanying paperwork are then dispatched via courier or post as detailed below.
4. Additional copies of the veterinary specimen advice form and key list can be downloaded from:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/sample-submission>

Contact us:

For assistance, further information or to order collection kits contact Customer Service.

Phone:	1800 675 623
Email:	laboratory.services@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Delivery address:	NSW DPI Laboratory Services, Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Woodbridge Road, Menangle NSW 2568
Postal Address:	PMB 4008, Narellan, NSW 2567
To order PI-Test® kits online:	https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/about-us/services/laboratory-services/kits-and-media/order-sample-collection-kits