

Ruminant Respiratory PCR package

The respiratory PCR package covers 8 viral and bacterial pathogens. It can be run on respiratory swabs, BAL and tissue samples. The test is an alternative to IFAT testing for viral antigens and bacterial culture. The targets detected are:

BoHV-1 (causative agent of IBR)
PI3
RSV
Bovine coronavirus
Mycoplasma bovis
Histophilus somni
Pasteurella multocida
Mannheimia haemolytica

The test will be run at least once a week (usually on a Thursday) with results available the following day. The PCR package is likely to be of most use during the acute phase of an outbreak. Paired serological testing to confirm any diagnosis should also be considered when planning vaccination strategies for future years.

Sampling and posting instructions

- Plain dry swabs are preferred to achieve maximum sensitivity. Other swabs may be tested on request with the exception of gel/agar swabs which are not suitable for this assay. Laryngeal swabs suitable for the test are available on request for a small charge.
- Tissue samples and BAL fluid can also be tested.
- Pooling of 3 samples from animals in the same management group with similar duration of clinical signs may be an acceptable approach however this may have an effect on sensitivity of the assay. More than 5 samples for pooling will not be accepted and result in more than one pool being made and charged for. For more information on pooling please contact us.
- If pooling of samples is requested this must be between samples of the same type as each sample type requires different processing.
- Samples should be sent by overnight post (preferably guaranteed) so that they are received at the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.
- It is preferable to keep the samples chilled during transport.
- If samples are collected on a Friday they should be frozen at the practice over the weekend and sent to us on Monday with freezer packs/blocks to ensure they remain frozen. Do not send samples over the weekend as they will not be able to be stored correctly once they arrive.
- If any delay to sending samples during the week then freeze as above.
- Due to the multiple PCRs required there is a test limit of a maximum 10 samples at a time therefore advance notice of sample being sent will help us to provide the best possible service.

Please contact us for more information.

