

# How TB testing works

To TB test an animal, we first skin test the animal — a small dose of purified proteins from TB bacteria (called tuberculin) is injected into the skin. A localised swelling at the injection site means the animal has been exposed to TB. To confirm, we need to do a blood test.

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If the skin test is positive, blood is taken from the animals 10 to 30 days after the read day of the skin test.



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Blood test results become available within a week.



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If there are any animals with a positive blood test, we value them and organise their transport for you.



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A post-mortem inspection for TB is done at slaughter.



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Any TB lesions found in the post-mortem undergo initial lab testing. Herd status may be suspended at this stage.



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Samples of lymph nodes may be taken for more in-depth testing.



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Initial lab results from TB lesions are available within 1-2 weeks. Results of any in-depth testing of TB lesions and lymph nodes take 42-90 days.



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A final diagnosis is made when in-depth results are available. Final culture results are usually available within 42 days but can take up to 90 days.

