

MBfree Sampling Guidance



Blood sampling

- Collect 3-5ml using 10ml red top vacutainer
- The sample must be collected in a hygienic manner to prevent contamination
- The sample must be labelled with a unique animal identifier (preferably RFID)
- After collection, the vacutainer must be stood upright and kept at a temperature of 15-25°C for 30-60mins prior to refrigeration

Milk sampling

- Collect 5-10ml using small yellow/white top 30ml universal screw top containers
- The sample must be collected in a hygienic manner and be representative of the lot/vat from which the sample is drawn.

Swab sampling

- Use a dry, sterile swab with no medium (unless otherwise specified)
- The sample must be collected in a hygienic manner
- Appropriate swab technique must be used for the sampling site –
 - Nasal swabs should be taken from as far back as possible in both nostrils
 - Tonsillar crypt swabs should be taken from deep inside the crypt with vigorous swabbing technique for 30 secs per crypt

Sample handling & transport

- Store samples chilled at 2-10C
- Place labelled blood tubes in the polystyrene tray in the order they were taken. Wrap with plastic wrap to contain and secure the samples and keep upright
- Swab and milk samples must be packaged separately from bloods
- Different sampling groups (management groups) should be packaged separately
- All samples should be placed within a double layer of clear, leak-proof, plastic packaging
- A copy of the lab submission form should be kept separate in a clear plastic bag.
- Place samples in a chilly bin with cooling packs
- Ensure samples are not frozen during transit so place icepacks underneath polystyrene tray or insulate to avoid direct contact with blood tubes

Invalid samples

- Samples submitted with the following issues, sample and test integrity will have been compromised and will not be possible to be processed:
 - Leaking samples
 - Incorrect sample type/container
 - Samples not shipped chilled
 - Severely haemolysed blood
 - Excessively coagulated blood
 - Off/spoiled milk
 - Samples with less than minimum volume
 - Samples with no identification information/label