

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Directorate: Veterinary Services
Western Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory
Quality System

QUALITY MANUAL APPENDIX

APPENDIX 7

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION GUIDELINE

April 2017 – March 2018

The laboratory is open Mondays to Fridays 8:00 to 16:30

General contact information:

The diagnostic testing services available are tabulated according to the laboratory sections.

For general enquiries regarding the testing services listed, please contact the reception on
Tel: 021 8870324 to direct queries to the relevant laboratory section.

Submission of specimens:

The various submission forms are available from the laboratory Tel: 021 8870324 Fax: 021 886 5341 and on the website:
<http://www.elsenburg.com/services-and-programmes/veterinary-services-0#s=Veterinary-Laboratory-Services>

A completed sample submission form must accompany each submission for each animal species. Please complete the form in detail including all information with each submission. Samples will not be released for testing until full client information is provided.

Please make use of specific laboratory forms for: Bovine Brucellosis MRT, Caprine & Ovine Brucellosis CFT and Dourine CFT testing. A BR5 must accompany Bovine Brucellosis testing (RBT; CFT). (BR5 forms are available from your local State Veterinarian).

An accurate diagnosis depends on the correct submission of quality specimens; please refer to the tabulated testing services for sample submission details. Where applicable, please include animal history (age, vaccinations, medication, date of sampling, number of animal deaths, etc.).

Sample packaging should comply with specimen transport regulations. Samples should be packaged in a secure, leak proof container. Ensure that samples are kept at the correct temperature during transportation to maintain sample integrity for testing – refer to the transport requirements for each test method. A courier service should be used where possible or samples may be hand delivered.

Please indicate high risk cases (e.g. rabies, abortions due to Brucellosis), clearly.

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Address:

Courier or hand delivery:

Western Cape Provincial Veterinary Laboratory
Helshoogte Road
Stellenbosch
7600

Fees:

All fees listed are VAT exempt. If samples are referred or sub-contracted for testing at another laboratory, an additional fee may be applicable. In such cases the client who submitted the sample will be requested to pay the additional fee directly to the referral or sub-contracted laboratory. Please contact the laboratory for further information.

Controlled and notifiable animal disease testing and reporting:

Please note that it is compulsory for all laboratories performing tests for controlled and notifiable diseases to report incidence of positive or suspected incidence of controlled and notifiable diseases to the Department of Agriculture as per amendments to Regulation 12, Section 31, of the Animal Diseases Act, Act 35, 1984.

Results of controlled and notifiable diseases (Positive and suspect cases) will be sent to the state veterinarian or to the state veterinarian and private veterinarian or laboratory simultaneously. Should the state veterinarian be unavailable, the report will be sent to the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

DAFF requires full and comprehensive details for reporting of results for controlled and notifiable diseases. Please ensure that the latest edition of the laboratory sample submission form is completed in full. Samples must be submitted with full owner details (Name, physical address, contact information) to ensure that results are reported to the applicable State Veterinarian.

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DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES PER LABORATORY SECTION

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SEROLOGY								
Test/s Required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
<i>Brucella abortus</i> (Bovine)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	Rose Bengel Test (RBT)	-	Clotted Sample, Clear serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed serum	5 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	10 work days
		CFT	-					10 work days
<i>Brucella abortus</i> (Bovine)	Raw full cream milk ≥ 5ml	MRT	-	Raw full cream milk ≥ 5ml or 2 ml preserved with formalin	Sour milk , Milk with insufficient cream Colostrum Pasteurised milk Homogenised milk Bloody milk	3 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	5 work days
<i>Brucella melitensis</i> (Caprine; Ovine)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	CFT	-	Clotted Sample, Clear serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	5 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	10 work days
<i>Brucella ovis</i> (Ovine)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	CFT	R25.00/ sample/test	Clotted Sample, Clear serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	5 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	10 work days
Dourine (Equine)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	CFT	R25.00 / sample/test	Clotted Sample Clear serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	5 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C , preferably couriered and not posted	Tested on Thursdays only 7 work days (Aug-Dec) 14 work days (Jan-Jul)
Newcastle Disease Virus (NCD/ NDV) (Avian)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	HI	R11.00/ sample/test	Clotted Sample Clear Serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	3 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C or at ambient temperature, preferably couriered and not posted	7 work days
Avian influenza Virus – H5N1, H5N2, H7N1, H7N7 (Avian)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	HI	R93/ Per sample H5 & H7 antigens	Clotted Sample Clear Serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	3 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	7 work days
Avian influenza Virus – H6 N2 (Avian)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	HI	R23/ Per sample H6 N2 antigen only	Clotted Sample Clear Serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	3 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	7 work days
Influenza A virus antibody (Avian)	Whole clotted blood 6-10ml / Serum - 3 ml	ELISA	R31.00/ sample/test	Clotted Sample Clear Serum	Unclotted, Haemolysed	3 days	Transported at ± 4°C - 8°C, preferably couriered and not posted	7 work days

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VIROLOGY

Test/s Required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Average turn-around time
Virus isolation Avian influenza, Newcastle disease, Bluetongue, Infectious laryngotracheitis, Infectious Bronchitis, Pox, Avian metapneumovirus, Chlamydoiphila. Other (please contact laboratory)	Organs	Isolation in eggs	R520.00/ virus isolated	Fresh organs only	Decomposed organs Organs in formalin	24 hours (may be longer, depending on virus type)	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	2-7 weeks
	Swabs in fluid	Isolation in eggs		Single/pooled swabs in virus transport medium	Swabs in unsuitable fluid	24 hours (may be longer, depending on virus type)	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	2-7 weeks

PCR (MOLECULAR)

Test(s) required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Avian Influenza Virus A	Tracheal, cloacae, tissue swab (PCR rayon / cotton tipped, plastic shaft swab) Tissue (trachea, organs)	Screening Matrix gene rRT-PCR	R270.00/ Test	Tracheal, cloacae, tissue swab (PCR rayon / cotton tipped, plastic shaft swab) Tissue (trachea, organs)	Whole blood, serum, unsuitable swab (e.g. wooden shaft, bacterial swab)	24-48 hours	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	4 work days
		Additional H5 subtype rRT-PCR	R180.00/ test					
		Additional H7 subtype rRT-PCR	R180.00/ test					
Newcastle Disease Virus	Tracheal, cloacae, tissue swab (PCR rayon / cotton tipped, plastic shaft swab) Tissue (trachea, organs)	Screening Matrix rRT-PCR	R270.00/ Test	Tracheal, cloacae, tissue swab (PCR rayon / cotton tipped, plastic shaft swab) Tissue (trachea, organs)	Whole blood, serum, unsuitable swab (e.g. wooden shaft, bacterial swab)	24-48 hours	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	4 work days
NDV detection & Pathotype RT-PCR	R360.00/ test							

BACTERIOLOGY

Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
General Culture (aerobic) and identification;	Organs Swabs Aspirates, Faeces, Blood, Skin, Tissue	Bacteriological culture Biochemical identification	R168.00/ case (max 8 samples) R88.00 / Each additional	Fresh material only Swabs preferably in transport medium	Decomposed samples Organs in formalin	24 - 48 hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	10 work days

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BACTERIOLOGY								
Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Salmonella monitoring, culture and identification	Litter - 25 grams Meconium - 10 grams Organs - 1 gram / swab Stomach content Aspirates / fluids	Selective culture Biochemical identification	sample	Fresh samples Swabs preferably in transport medium	Drag swabs taken incorrectly Decomposed samples Organs in formalin	24 - 48 hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C or at ambient temperature	10 work days
<i>Brucella</i> spp. Isolation and presumptive identification	Milk - 20ml Lymph Nodes Blood 5ml Stomach contents	Bacteriological culture Biochemical identification	-	Fresh material only	Sour milk Decomposed samples Organs in formalin	24 -48 hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C in compliance with the United Nations regulations (clearly label contents as suspect <i>Brucella</i>)	20 work days <i>B. canis</i> : 25 work days
Isolation (anaerobic)	Organs Swabs Aspirates	Bacteriological culture Biochemical identification	R189.00/ case	Fresh material only Swabs in transport medium only	Decomposed samples Organs in formalin Dry swabs	24 hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	10 work days
Antibiograms (on request)	Bacterial isolate	Antibiogram	R99.00/ test	24 hr Bacterial culture on non-selective medium	> 24 hours bacterial culture Mixed culture	-	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	5 work days
Foetus and foetus material culture and identification	Foetus and foetal material	Culture Selective culture Smears (DQ/Rapdiff, MZN, Gimenez, PAS)	R312.00 / foetus/case	Fresh foetus and foetal material only	Decomposed samples Organs in formalin	24 – 48 hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C in compliance with the United Nations regulations (clearly label contents as suspect <i>Brucella</i>)	20 work days <i>B. canis</i> : 20-25 work days

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Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Aerobic plate count	Meat 100g	Aerobic culture and count	R44.00/ sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	7 work days
	Dry Feed / Foodstuff 50g	Aerobic culture and count	R44.00/ sample	Dry feed, clearly labelled	Moist, damp specimen Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ambient temperature	10 work days
	Rodac / contact / exposure Plate [available from lab]	Aerobic culture and count	R44.00/ sample	Plate clearly labelled	Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	5 work days
<i>E. coli</i> count	Meat 100g	Aerobic culture and count	R71.00/ sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	7 work days
	Dry Feed / Foodstuff 50g	Aerobic culture and count	R71.00/ sample	Dry feed, clearly labelled	Moist, damp specimen Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ambient temperature	10 work days
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Meat 100g	Aerobic culture and isolation, detection	R51.00/ sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	10 work days Salmonella typing referred to ARC-OVI on request
	Dry Feed / Foodstuff 50g	Aerobic culture and isolation, detection	R51.00/ sample	Dry feed, clearly labelled	Moist, damp specimen Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ambient temperature	10 work days Salmonella typing referred to

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Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
					environmental contamination)			ARC-OVI on request
<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	Meat 100g	Aerobic culture and count	R46.00/sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	7 work days
	Dry Feed / Foodstuff 50g	Aerobic culture and count	R46.00/sample	Dry feed, clearly labelled	Wet, damp specimen Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ambient temperature	10 work days
	Rodac / contact / exposure Plate [available from lab]	Aerobic culture and count	R46.00/sample	Plate clearly labelled	Sample which has not been packaged correctly Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	5 work days
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Meat 100g	Aerobic culture and isolation, detection	R57.00/sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	14 work days
	Dry Feed / Foodstuff 50g	Aerobic culture and isolation, detection	R57.00/sample	Dry feed, clearly labelled	Moist, damp specimen Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ambient temperature	14 work days
Antibiotic residue	Meat 100g	<i>B. subtilis</i> growth inhibition	R40.00/sample	Fresh specimen clearly labelled	Decomposed sample Cold chain not maintained Packaging compromised (exposure to environmental contamination)	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C	7 work days

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Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Aerobic plate count (Water)	Water 1000ml	Aerobic culture and count	R44.00/sample	Water in a sterile sampling container	Dirty, unsterile sample containers	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C or at ambient temperature	5 work days
Total Coliforms Water	Water 1000ml	Aerobic culture and count	R62.00/sample	Water in a sterile sampling container	Dirty, unsterile sample containers	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C or at ambient temperature	5 work days
Faecal coliforms & <i>E. Coli</i> (Water)	Water 1000ml	Aerobic culture and count	R62.00/sample	Water in a sterile sampling container	Dirty, unsterile sample containers	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C or at ambient temperature	5 work days
Faecal Streptococci (Water)	Water 1000ml	Aerobic culture and count	R53.00/sample	Water in a sterile sampling container	Dirty, unsterile sample containers	24 Hrs	Transported at ± 4°C-8°C or at ambient temperature	5 work days

BIOCHEMISTRY

Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Feed analysis: minerals (Ca, Mg, P, Cu, Fe, Zn, Mn, Na, K)	Feed (100g)	Atomic Absorption Spectrometry	R98.00/mineral/sample	Feed in a secure, clean plastic / paper bag	Wet, badly packed samples	within 48 hours	Ambient temperature	15 work days
Feed analysis: minerals Selenium	Feed (100g)	Fluorescence Spectrometry	R123.00/mineral/sample	Feed in a secure, clean plastic / paper bag	Wet, badly packed samples	within 48 hours	Ambient temperature	20 work days
Organ (Liver, kidney): minerals (Ca, Mg, P, Cu, Fe, Zn, Mn,)	Liver / kidney (100g)	Atomic Absorption Spectrometry	R31.00/mineral/sample	Fresh organs on ice Organs in 7-10% unbuffered Formalin, clean leak-proof sample bottle, sealed plastic bag	decomposed samples, 7-10% buffered formalin	within 24 hours	Fresh samples - frozen organs on ice	15 work days
Organ (Liver, kidney): minerals Selenium	Liver / kidney (100g)	Fluorescence Spectrometry	R110.00/mineral/sample	Fresh organs on ice Organs in 7-10% unbuffered Formalin, clean leak-proof sample bottle, sealed plastic bag	decomposed samples, 7-10% buffered formalin	within 24 hours	Fresh samples - frozen organs on ice	20 work days
Bone minerals: Ca, Mg, P; Bone ash	Bone (50g)	Atomic Absorption Spectrometry	R83.00/mineral/sample	Fresh bone frozen (kept on ice), clean sample container, leak-proof	bone with muscle tissue attached; bone in formalin	within 48 hours	Fresh samples - frozen, transport on ice on ice	20 work days

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Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Serum / Plasma: Total Protein	Plasma / Serum (5-10ml)	Automated dry chemistry instrument (spectrometry)	R67.00/sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), Plasma separated from Whole blood (Heparin – Green top / EDTA – lavender / purple top).	Haemolysed serum / plasma with or without clot	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	10 work days
Serum / Plasma: Albumin/Globulin	Plasma / Serum (5-10ml)	Automated dry chemistry instrument (spectrometry)	R67.00/sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), Plasma separated from Whole blood (Heparin – Green top / EDTA – lavender / purple top).	Haemolysed serum / plasma with or without clot	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	10 work days
Serum / Plasma: Blood urea nitrogen	Plasma / Serum (5-10ml)	Automated dry chemistry instrument (spectrometry)	R58.00/sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), Plasma separated from Whole blood (Heparin – Green top / EDTA – lavender / purple top).	Haemolysed serum / plasma with or without clot	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	10 work days
Serum: Gamma-Globulin	Serum (5-10ml)	spectrometry (turbidity)	R45.00/sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), preferably separated from clot	Plasma, Whole blood, Haemolysed serum	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	10 work days
Serum: Enzymes GGT AST CK	Serum (5-10ml)	Automated dry chemistry instrument (spectrometry)	R76.00/sample /test	Serum (Red / Yellow top), preferably separated from clot	Plasma, Whole blood, Haemolysed serum	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	7-10 work days
Serum minerals: Cu, Zn	Serum (5-10ml)	Atomic Absorption Spectrometry	R31.00/mineral sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), preferably separated from clot	Haemolysed serum with or without clot	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	15 work days
Serum minerals: Ca, Mg, P, Na, K, Fe, Cl	Serum (5-10ml)	Automated dry chemistry instrument (spectrometry)	R31.00/mineral/sample	Serum (Red / Yellow top), preferably separated from clot	Haemolysed serum with or without clot	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	15 work days
Whole blood: Selenium	Whole Blood (5-10ml)	Fluorescence Spectrometry	R49.00/mineral / sample	Whole blood (Heparin – Green top / EDTA – lavender / purple top)	Clotted blood sample, serum	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	20 work days
pH	Rumen contents, water (50ml)	pH meter	-	Clean plastic bottle	Dirty contaminated sample container	within 48 hours	4-8°C or ambient temperature	10 work days
Haematocrit (Packed cell volume)	Whole Blood (5-10ml)	Haematocrit centrifuge	R6.00/sample	Whole blood (preferably EDTA – lavender / purple top)	Clotted blood sample, serum	within 24 hours	4°C-8°C	10 work days

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TOXICOLOGY

Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Nitrate/Nitrite	5ml eye fluid / serum	Spot test, qualitative	R30.00/ sample	Samples In separate sterile containers. Blood in Heparin.	Samples older than 24 hrs	within 12-24 hours	4°C-8°C	3 work days
Ryegrass toxicity	Grass with ripe seed	Microscopic examination	R63.00/ sample	Sample must be representative of feed batch	Grass with immature seed	Not applicable	Ambient temperature	3 work days

HISTOPATHOLOGY

Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Maximum turn-around time
Histopathology	Organs, Bone	Processing, staining and microscopic examination of stained wax embedded sections	R291.00 / case	Fresh sample	Decomposed or dried out samples Incorrect size Incorrect formalin solution	1 week	Must be in a watertight container	20 work days
	Organs: Maximum 10mm thickness. Whole brain to be fixed in formalin for longer period. Ratio of sample to formalin must be 1:10		(max 12 cassettes)	A 10% neutral buffered formalin solution				
		Processing and staining only	R166.00 / case (max 12 cassettes)	Sample must be totally covered in formalin Minimal organic soiling of formalin				

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Test/s required	Sample Type & Size	Assay	* Fee	Suitable Sample	Unsuitable Sample	To reach the lab within:	Transport Requirements	Turn-around time
Pathology investigation	Whole animal carcass	Necropsy and histological examination, further laboratory testing	Adult large animal: R537.00 / case Small stock, dog, cats, immature large animal: R261 / case Poultry, Bird, Reptile: R144.00 / case Ostrich: Adult R281.00 / case Ostrich: immature R141 /case Foetus R312.00 / case * Referral / subcontractor testing (may be subject to additional laboratory test fees).	Whole animal carcass Foetus	Advanced decomposition	24 hrs	None	Prelim findings: within 4 work days (Telephonic, email, fax). Final Report: within 20 work days; Final report findings may be delayed by laboratory test results. Please contact the laboratory for an update.
Pathology investigation: Rabies	Whole animal carcass or head	Necropsy and collection of Rabies samples Referral testing	-	Clearly marked as High risk Whole animal carcass	Advanced decomposition	24 hrs	Clearly marked as High risk	On request Samples submitted for referral testing at ARC-OVI