



Animal Health Diagnostic Center

College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
In Partnership with the NYS Dept of Ag & Markets

US Postal Service Address: PO Box 5786
Ithaca, NY 14852-5786

Courier Service Address: 240 Farrier Rd
Ithaca, NY 14853

AHDC Fact Sheet
Laboratory Operations
Phone: 607-253-3900
Fax: 607-253-3943
Web: ahdc.vet.cornell.edu
E-mail: diagcenter@cornell.edu

Samples: Minimum Retention Times*

(Calendar days starting from date sample received)

Anatomic Pathology

Necropsy frozen & fixed tissue: 60 days
Surgical Biopsy fixed tissue: 6 months
Legal case carcass: 5 business days, legal case fixed tissue: 1 year
TSE fixed tissue: 1 Year

Bacteriology

Original samples: 7 days (ATM tubes at room temp; feces/tissue samples at -20°C; all other samples at 4°C)
Serum samples: Brucella abortus: 2 weeks at 4°C
Canine Brucella and fungal (negatives): 1 week at 4°C
Canine Brucella and fungal (positives): 1 year at -20°C
Lepto and Johne's AGID: 3 months at -20°C
Aerobic bacterial isolates: 1 week at room temperature after test is finalized
Select bacterial isolates: 1 year at -80°C or lyophilized

Clinical Pathology

Serum, whole blood, and cytology fluid: 7 days at 4°C

Comparative Coagulation

Plasma: 2 months at -20°C
Whole blood: 2 days at 4°C

Endocrinology

Original samples: 2 weeks at 4°C
Tested samples: 1 month at -20°C

Johne's Lab

Individual fecal samples for Johne's PCR: 2 weeks at -80°C after test set
Individual fecal samples for culture: Until all tests are finalized at -80°C
Tissue samples: Until all tests are finalized at -80°C
Pooled fecal samples: Until all tests are finalized at -80°C



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Molecular Diagnostics

Original samples: 2 weeks (tissue and feces at -80°C, all other samples at 4°C)
Extracted genetic material (DNA or RNA): 2 months at -20°C

Parasitology

Fecal samples: 7 days at 4°C
Serum samples: 2 years at -20°C

QMPS

All original samples, including Mycoplasma: 7 days at -20°C

Serology/Immunology

Serum: 3 months at 4°C initially and then -20°C
Milk: 7 days 4°C

Toxicology

Whole blood, serum, other fluid: 1 month at 4°C
Feed: 1 month at room temperature
Tissue: 1 month at -20°C

Virology

Serum samples: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA/Coggins): 2 weeks at 4°C
All other serum samples: 3 weeks at 4°C
Tissue samples: 3 weeks at -80°C
FA blocks: 3 weeks at -20°C

*Individual samples may be retained longer. If a critical situation arises, contact the lab to check if sample is still in storage.

Temperatures listed are approximate. If definitive storage temperature ranges are needed, please contact the lab.