



Animal Health Diagnostic Center

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Trichomonad Protozoa Testing for Cats

It has been reported that *Tritrichomonas foetus* and *Pentatrichomonas hominis* are associated with diarrhea in cats. It has been shown that young cats with chronic diarrhea have *T. foetus* in their colons. Recognition of the cause of this chronic diarrhea has been delayed primarily by misdiagnosis of the protozoa as *P. hominis* or *Giardia* when seen by light microscopy.

Trichomonads do not form cysts and disintegrate quickly after leaving their host, and therefore cannot be diagnosed by routine fecal flotation techniques. If these protozoa are suspected in an animal, it is recommended the feces be preserved in SAF fixative (available from Remel) or in an InPouch™ TF. (InPouch™ TF containers can be purchased from the AHDC shipping department for \$5.35 each.) Either method will maintain intact protozoa for identification. See instructions below for submitting a sample using the InPouch™ TF system. For additional information, please contact Dr Susan Wade or Stephanie Schaaf at 607-253-3580.

FOR T. foetus CULTURE USING THE InPouch SYSTEM

Obtain a fresh fecal specimen and dip a sterile swab into the feces, or appropriately swab the rectum of the kitten to obtain a fresh inoculum.

1. Make sure approximately half of the liquid medium is in the upper chamber but is below the closure tape.
2. Tear open the pouch at the notch just above the closure.
3. Separate the flaps by pulling on the tabs to open the pouch.
4. Insert the swab coated with feces through the pouch opening and into the liquid of the upper compartment. The contents of the swab should be gently “milked” out by pressing the tip of the swab between the fingers, through the flexible walls of the pouch. **Avoid producing bubbles.** Discard swab.
5. Close the pouch by folding and rolling the tape towards you. Roll 2 or 3 times and fold the tabs behind the pouch to lock.
6. Ship to the laboratory **OVERNIGHT AND UNREFRIGERATED**. If shipping in cold weather, insulate to prevent from excessive chilling or freezing.

Store unused InPouch™ TF kits vertically and at room temperature (18-25 °C). Shelf life is 15 months from the date of manufacture. If upper chamber is dry or sticky after storage, squeeze fluid from the lower chamber into the upper chamber and mix well. Redistribute medium evenly between the two chambers. Do not use if the medium becomes cloudy or a precipitate forms.