



Tumbling B Cattle Co.

Bovicheck Labs

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Sample Collection Procedure

1. Screw the Vacutainer needle onto the needle holder
2. Insert the Vacutainer tube into the other end of the needle holder until the stopper touches the back portion of the needle. Do not puncture the stopper. Hold these assembled materials in one hand.
3. Lift the cow's tail with the other hand.
4. Insert the needle about ½ inch deep and perpendicular to the tail at the under side, midline and at about 3 to 6 inches from the base of the tail. In this region, there is a longitudinal, midline ridge of skin through which you push the needle.
5. Blood will appear at the junction of the stopper and the back portion of the needle once the vein is punctured. If it does not appear, pull the needle out slightly and insert in a different direction until the vein is punctured.
6. Once blood is seen, push the tube onto the needle. Be sure to keep the needle under the skin since vacuum will be lost if not. The vacuum will pull blood into the tube and if lost, blood cannot be collected. Use a second tube if this happens.
7. Collect 2 cc or more of blood.
8. Withdraw the needle from the skin and remove the tube from the tube holder.
9. Label the tube with the sequence number and the animal identification. [How to label tubes](#)
10. Place the tube in an ice rack or refrigerator until shipment. [Enclose a filled out sample submittal form.](#)
11. Discard the needle into a "sharps" container and re-use the needle holder. Use a new needle for each sample.

Postal Shipping Procedures

1. Bundle tubes together in groups of 1-10 tubes with a rubber band
2. Place inside a leak proof Ziploc bag or baggie
3. Wrap the bundle with absorbent paper towel or newspaper (enough to absorb all fluid if all tubes break)
4. Write Biohazard on the plastic of the bag with a Sharpie pen. **DO NOT PUT BIOHAZARD ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE BOX!!**
5. Pack the bag or bags with bubble wrap or absorbent newspaper in a box (we do not suggest using padded envelopes) and seal the box
6. Address the box
7. If you have packaged using this procedure, tape the following label to the outside of the box

**Diagnostic Specimens --- This package conforms to USPS Publication 52, Exhibit 346.12f --
- Packaging for Risk Group 1 Materials**

If you have questions, please consult with your local post office and/or check the information at the following website:

<http://pe.usps.com/text/DMM300/601.HTM#WP1065177>