



Pigeon Healthcare Laboratory

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SAMPLING GUIDE

Examination	Submitted samples
Test panels	
DIARRHEA package ¹	<p><u><i>In case of live pigeons:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping (40 g) Dropping swab on transport media¹ <p><u><i>In case of corpses:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping (40 g) Dropping swab on transport media¹ Whole corpses⁷
BASIC package (in case of 1-2 corpses) ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping (40 g) Whole corpses⁷
COMPLEX package (in case of 2-3 corpses) ^{1,7}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping (40 g) Dropping swab on transport media¹ Whole corpses⁷
Bacteriology - Basic cultivations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping swab on transport media¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naso-pharyngeal fluid⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naso-pharyngeal swab on transport media⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conjunctival fluid² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conjunctival swab on transport media²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint fluid³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint fluid on transport media³

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wound excretion⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swab on transport media⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dead in shell egg⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole dead in shell egg(s)⁶
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmonella screening (collected dropping)¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping swab on transport media¹
Bacteriology - Special examinations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campylobacter cultivation¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping swab on transport media¹ Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mycobacterium cultivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anaerobic cultivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONLY field sampling (on transport media)¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salmonella PCR from dropping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping swab on transport media¹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mycoplasma PCR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracheal and nasopharyngeal swabs on transport media Sinus swab on transport media Tissue samples from air sacs and joints
Parasitology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microscopic examination of dropping smear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microscopic examination with Breza enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fresh dropping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop fluid⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONLY field samples (swab)⁸
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quill-mite⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feather follicles⁹
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sportclub screening (per loft) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact us for details!
Virology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herpesvirus PCR⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paramyxovirus PCR⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adenovirus PCR⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circovirus PCR⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole corpses⁷
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poxvirus PCR⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pox lesions, whole corpses⁷
Citology and histology	

• Citology of ocular / conjunctival fluid ²	• ONLY field samples ^{2,3}
• Citology of joint fluid ³	
• Histopathological examination	• Whole corpses ⁷
Serology	
• Paramyxovirus antibody titer	• ONLY field samples (blood)
• Chlamydia antigen test	• Fresh dropping
Autopsy	
• Pathological examination of submitted corpses	• Whole corpses ⁷
• Field pathological examination	• ONLY field samples
Loft specific vaccine (autologous vaccine)	
• Salmonella	• Whole corpses ⁷
• Pseudomonas	
• Mycoplasma	
Sampling tools	
• Transport media	• Contact us for details
• Dropping collecting jar	
Field sampling	• ONLY field samples

Further sample collecting information for the examinations marked by numbers

1. Dropping on transport media

- For the bacteriological examination of dropping, fresh sample is vital. Therefore, the sample collection and transport to the lab should be carried out on transport media.
- This sample collecting tool is provided by the lab free of charge. Sample collected in a non-sterile vessel and left to air-dry for 1-2 days is inadequate for examination.
- Carefully pull the sterile cotton swab from the storage bowl and thoroughly twirl it in the sample intended for examination. Then inoculate the sample onto a special transport media (a tube containing jelly material).
- With this method the survival of bacteria on the swab is ensured for 48-72 hours.



Transport media: Following the sample collection the swab should be placed back into the sampling tube so that the bacteria get into the transport media thus surviving the transport to the lab.

2. Conjunctival fluid on transport media.

- In case of small amount of fluid the conjunctival fluid can be examined ONLY by direct inoculation for which samples can only be collected at the site.
- In case of possible Chlamydia infection, cytological examination is advised.

3. Joint fluid on transport media

- By aseptic sample collection we facilitate healing as well because the accumulated inflammatory exudate is excreted from the body.
- The sample should be inoculated onto broth media 1 hour after collection.

4. Wound excretion on transport media

- In case of small amount of fluid the wound excretion can be examined ONLY by direct inoculation for which we can collect the samples at the site.
- Cytological examination is advised.

5. Nasopharyngeal fluid on transport media

- For the bacteriological examination of nasopharyngeal fluids fresh sample is vital so the collection of samples and their delivery to the lab should be carried out on transport media
- This sample collecting tool is provided by the lab free of charge. Sample collected in a non-sterile vessel and left to air-dry for 1-2 days is inadequate for examination.
- Carefully pull the sterile cotton swab from the storage bowl and thoroughly twirl it in the sample intended for examination. Then inoculate the sample onto a special transport media (a tube containing jelly material).
- With this method the survival of bacteria on the swab is ensured for 48-72 hours.

6. Dead in shell eggs

- The sample is quite fragile therefore it should be prepared for delivery with special care.

7. Sending whole corpses

- In the case of whole corpses it is important to deliver the corpses in a completely sealed, leakproof package.
- The corpses should be sent to the lab as soon as possible. It is recommended to send them by courier or to bring them in personally.
- The corpses should be refrigerated during transport (e.g. with ice accumulators in a cooling bag).

8. Parasitological examination of crop swap

- Parasites are quite sensitive, thus the examination should be carried out immediately after sampling (in 10 minutes).
- The examination can only be performed at the site.

9. Examination for external parasites

- In case of quill mite suspicion make sure to slowly pull the calamus (deprived of its vane) from the pigeon's skin.