

Semen submissions to Virology Division, Backweston

As BVD semen virus isolation is a non-routine test requiring tissue culture, some preparatory work is required before testing begins. Prior notification (~ 1 week) of the impending submission of semen for testing will mean quicker results.

Two tests are available for the identification of BVD in semen, the BVD PCR and the BVD PLA (virus isolation). Both require at least 4 straws of semen. At the time of writing, the BVD PLA remains the official statutory test for BVD virus.

Virus isolation takes a minimum of 14 days, dependent on the number of passages required. Please account for this when planning on date of receipt for test results. PCR is much quicker and is at least as sensitive as virus isolation.

Semen should be collected and sent in the raw state, without extenders/diluters. Some extenders/diluters have been found to adversely affect testing particularly the BVD PLA.

A minimum of 4 straws of semen should be sent from each bull to be tested.

Each straw must be clearly labelled as to the bull of origin. Ideally straws from the same bull should be bound together or placed together in mini-pots.

Each submission of semen **MUST** have an accompanying submission form.

Semen samples must be delivered to Virology Division, Backweston in liquid nitrogen coolant. The suitability of samples for testing is dependent on a continuous cold chain, from the bull to the laboratory. Always contact a member of Virology staff before leaving when dropping off samples.

If intending to leave liquid nitrogen containers, tanks, dewars or vessels at Virology Division, please label your ownership appropriately.