

Footrot – collection of samples for laboratory diagnosis

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Footrot transport medium
(Available from the Animal Health Laboratory)

Sterile swabs

SELECTING ANIMALS FOR TESTING

Select animals in early stages of infection

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE TESTED

For flock checks, sample six typical sheep in the mob.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

1. Examine affected foot. Remove debris to expose inter-digital lesion and / or pare hoof to expose area of under-running.
2. Using a sterile swab, scrape material from the active footrot lesion.
3. Insert the swab as far as possible into the transport medium before breaking off the stick. (Ensure a small length of the stick remains above the surface of the medium.)
4. Replace the lid of transport media and screw down firmly. Label the bottle.
5. Use a new swab, for each foot sampled.

Note: If the Footrot organism is isolated, it may take up to four weeks to determine elastase activity. Elastase activity determines whether the footrot organisms isolated are virulent, intermediate or benign.

TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

Pack in an esky **without** ice and send specimens to Animal Health Lab, Mount Pleasant Laboratories as soon as possible, ensuring that they arrive within 24 hours of collection.

SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples to:

Animal Health Laboratory
DPIPWE

165 Westbury Road
Prospect TAS 7250

P: 03 6777 2111

E: specimenreception@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au

For more Footrot information:

<https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/lameness-in-sheep-or-goats>

For more information about the Animal Health Laboratory:

www.dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/AHLabs

