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FECAL SAMPLING SUBMISSION PROTOCOL FOR *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* CULTURE

Although *M. paratuberculosis* has, in the past, been thought not to be infectious to humans, its possible role in Crohn's disease is uncertain and remains to be determined. Therefore, appropriate safety precautions should be taken when obtaining fecal samples.

1. An accredited or regulatory veterinarian or person(s) under his/her direct supervision must obtain all fecal samples. All submissions **must** be scheduled with the RMRAHL **prior** to sampling.
2. Obtain the fecal sample from the rectum of each individual animal using a **new** examination glove or sleeve for each sample. If lubricant is necessary, use only water or saline: **Do not** use commercial lubricants.
3. Submit samples in a properly sealed fecal container. RMRAHL has sampling kits containing fecal containers upon request. Number the samples in sequence, to match the submission form. The submission form must be signed and dated by the accredited or regulatory veterinarian.
4. If submitting fecal samples for pooled liquid culture, properly identify which samples are to be pooled (no more than 5 fecals per pool). RMRAHL will pool the fecal samples upon receipt to the laboratory. Each sample must be in its own fecal container and clearly labeled.
5. Refrigerate samples immediately after collection. If the samples cannot be sent to the lab within 24 hours freeze at -80°C . **Do not** freeze in a household freezer (-20°C). If the samples can be sent to the laboratory immediately, transport samples with cold packs in a leak-proof, well-insulated container to the above address.