



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY

ROUTINE FECAL TESTING

FECAL TESTING OFFERED

- **Qualitative (Float)** - Detection and identification of parasitic worm ova and coccidia oocysts with severity level only (light, moderate, or heavy).
- **Quantitative (Modified McMaster)** - Detection and identification of parasitic worm ova and coccidia oocysts with quantification (eggs/oocysts per gram).
- **Direct Fecal Exam** - Detection and identification of parasitic worm ova and coccidia oocysts. Not suggested for routine fecal examinations since it is the least sensitive method.
- **Baermann (Lungworm)** – Detection and identification of parasitic lungworm larvae. Not suggested for routine fecal examinations.

Consultation with your Veterinarian is highly recommended to assure test method selection meets the needs of each animal or your herd/flock management plan. Selection of an appropriate testing method may be affected by factors such as clinical symptoms, general herd/flock management plan, or desired test sensitivity.

FECOLLECTION & STORAGE OF SAMPLES

- **Submit several grams:** 8 grams is optimal; less than 2 grams (direct or float only); 15 grams required for Baermann.
- **Fresh** fecal samples are best. Fragile parasites may break down and eggs may hatch within hours or days.
- Rectal collection or collection immediately following defecation is **best**.
- **Refrigerate** immediately following collection & deliver with ice packs. **DO NOT** freeze.
- Gloves, rectal sleeves, and zip lock bag submissions **may be rejected**. Please transfer samples to a spill-proof container. We provide containers free of charge at the Frederick Animal Health Laboratory front desk. To avoid cross contamination, remove debris with an appropriate disinfectant.
- **Label samples with animal name/ID** and any other information needed to distinguish individual samples (e.g. owner last name).
- Fill out the appropriate laboratory **submission form** (see Forms & Fees link), matching samples and paperwork.
 - Please **specify test requested** according to test options above.
- Deliver samples **as soon as possible**. If shipping, package according to IATA/DOT regulations for biological samples with ice packs. See MDA website for guidance: <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/laboratory.aspx#shipping>
- It is the goal of the MDA Animal Health Laboratory System to provide results as soon as possible. **Please call ahead to arrange testing of large numbers (> 10 samples)**. This will assure the laboratory is able to test samples while they are fresh, particularly during fecal test surges (e.g. spring season) or prior to a weekend or holiday.



SAMPLE SUBMISSION SUMMARY

COLLECT AT LEAST
8 GRAMS IN A SPILL-PROOF
 CONTAINER
NO GLOVES, RECTAL SLEEVES, OR
ZIP LOCK BAGS
 (15G BAERMANN ONLY)

STORE & SHIP **COLD**
 IMMEDIATELY REFRIGERATE
 SHIP WITH ICE PACKS

DELIVER/SHIP **ASAP**

SUBMISSION OF
LESS THAN 2 GRAMS –
 DIRECT/FLOAT ONLY

48 HOUR TURN-AROUND*
 *CALL AHEAD FOR TESTING OF
 LARGE NUMBERS (>10 SAMPLES)

ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORIES

Frederick – (301) 600-1548
 1840 Rosemont Ave.
 Frederick, MD 21702

Salisbury – (410) 543-6610
 27722 Nanticoke Rd.
 Salisbury, MD 21801

FORMS & FEES

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/laboratory.aspx>