

Sample requirements guidance

We are able to process a wide variety of sample types. Please follow the instructions below to avoid an extended processing time or a failure of analysis.

Ear punch biopsies

Kits from most commercial providers will be accepted.

We recommend tissue collectors from Apogene GmbH for the easy to obtain and contaminant-free biopsy (email: kontakt@apogeneKG.de).

Fat tissue biopsies cannot be processed.

Blood

Approximately **1 ml** of non-coagulated **EDTA-blood** is required.

Tubes should be labelled smudge-proof and unambiguous to avoid mistakes. During summer at high temperatures, chilled shipping is advised but should be avoided over weekends.

For **virus diagnostics** such as BVDV, serum instead of EDTA-blood is required.

Buccal/nasal swabs

We have good experiences with LIVESTOCK Geno Tube swabs, Art. No. 9062010, (<https://www.thermofisher.com/order/catalog/product/9062010>). Other products may work as well.

However, the swabs need to be suitable for genetic testing: It is important that they preserve the tissue in some way preventing contaminating bacteria and fungi from rapidly degrading the tissue which would lead to a failure of analysis.

Semen

For genetic analysis, one semen straw is suitable; for viral detection two straws are preferred. Chilled shipping is not necessary.

Please wrap straws sophisticatedly to avoid bending and leakage.

Hair roots and feathers

A minimum of 15 freshly plucked hairs with **roots** or 3 freshly drawn feathers including the quill, respectively, are required. **Cut** or **lost hair** does not work. It is important to preserve the roots and quills after collection.

Please use our "[Accompanying form for collection of hair root samples](#)" and send it together with the order form.

Roots from fetlock hair of sheep will be accepted.

General instructions for sampling and shipping

- Use disposable gloves for sample collection, alternatively wash your hands thoroughly beforehand. If samples from several animals are collected, repeat the procedure each time. To avoid contamination, please finish sampling from each animal before you start with the next.
- Please avoid touching the roots or quills.
- Wrap each sample (hair or feathers) individually in a paper envelope and label them clearly.
- Prevent contact between individual samples to avoid contamination ensuring a reliable analysis.
- Fill in our order form (<https://www.agrobiogen.de/en/submission-forms>) and send it together with the samples to the address above. For ear punch samples, use a padded envelope or a sturdy box. Improperly packaged samples can leak during transport, which can harm transport service staff, the recipients of other transported mailings, and our employees. Those samples can also cause false positive results by contaminating other parallel samples.

If samples do not meet the above standards or do not contain sufficient amounts of tissue, we reserve the right to reject them.