



COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Patient Selection Definitions, Sampling Plan and Stool Sampling Method for Dogs and Cats

A. Definition of symptomatic and asymptomatic

1. Salmonella symptomatic dog or cat

Required: Animal presented by owner to veterinarian with current problem of diarrhea. Only one animal per household can be enrolled in the study*.

Optional:

- a. Fever
- b. Vomiting
- c. Abdominal pain
- d. Lethargy

2. Salmonella asymptomatic dog or cat

Required: Animal NOT presented by owner to veterinarian with current problem of diarrhea

B. Sampling plan

- Sampling plan is to obtain 100 samples from symptomatic dogs and 100 samples from asymptomatic dogs.
- Obtain as many cat samples as possible. Each site to match number of asymptomatic samples to number of symptomatic samples
- Could include in-patient and out-patient animals
- Could include University veterinary teaching hospital or private veterinary hospital origin samples
- No age-matching of asymptomatic animals with symptomatic animals, too onerous for participants
- Shelter and pound animals excluded from study.

****If there is a true outbreak happening please contact the Vet-LRN program office and we will be glad to discuss options for additional samples to be collected from the rest of the animals in the household. They will not be included in the data for the study, but should be investigated as part of Vet-LRN mission.***



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C. Stool Sampling Method for Dogs

C1. Participating veterinarians will be provided with a fecal kit containing:

- o information about the project and client consent form, client questionnaire, pet animal Salmonella information brochure
- o disposable gloves
- o biohazard bags
- o tongue depressor
- o 100-ml sterile specimen containers
- o pre-addressed, postage-paid cushioned envelopes for mailing the samples

C2. Stool Sample Collection

- o Direct collection: digital “scoop” of the rectum with gloved finger by veterinary personnel
- o Indirect collection: Defecated stool sample collected by owner or veterinary personnel
 - Most dogs defecate after meals, so watch your dog then.
 - Observe animal defecating (no picking up un-observed feces)
 - Pick up the sample immediately after defecation
 - The sample needs to be clean.
 - Flip a new, clean plastic bag inside out and place it on your hand. Use this “glove” to pick up the sample being careful not to get any soil or plant matter
 - *If the idea of handling the stool in this way bothers you, use a very clean disposable implement, such as a tongue depressor to scoop up a sample into the container.*
 - Obtain at least 1 gm of feces (about 1 teaspoon), but more is preferable (1/4 cup)
 - Store sample in the refrigerator and take the sample to your veterinarian as soon as possible that same day (preferably within 6 hours).
 - The sooner your veterinarian receives the stool sample and sends it to the lab, the more accurate the results.
 - If samples are found unacceptable by your veterinarian or the testing laboratory you may be asked to re-submit another sample



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D. Stool Sampling Method for Cats

D1. Participating veterinarians will be provided with a fecal kit will containing:

- o information about the project and client consent form, client questionnaire, pet animal Salmonella information brochure
- o disposable gloves
- o biohazard bags
- o 100-ml sterile specimen containers
- o pre-addressed, postage-paid cushioned envelopes for mailing the samples

D2. Stool Sample Collection

- o Indirect collection: Defecated stool sample collected by owner or veterinary personnel
 - Don't worry about litter in the sample. It's okay. The people in your participating veterinarian's office will take what they need to send to the lab.
 - A good way to obtain a sample is to remove the litter box in the evening, then replace the box in the morning with FRESH litter. Many cats will use the fresh litter immediately.
 - If you have multiple cats using the same box, you can isolate 'the patient' in a room with a separate, clean litter box until he or she defecates.
 - Pick up the sample immediately after defecation is possible
 - To pick up the sample flip a new, clean plastic bag inside out and place it on your hand and pick up the sample.
 - If the idea of handling the stool in this way bothers you, use a very clean disposable implement, such as a tongue depressor to scoop up a sample and maneuver into the specimen container..
 - Obtain at least 1 gm of feces (about 1 teaspoon) but more is preferable.
 - Store sample in the refrigerator and take the sample to your veterinarian as soon as possible that same day (preferably within 6 hours).
 - The sooner your veterinarian receives the stool sample and sends it to the lab, the more accurate the results.
 - If samples are found unacceptable by your veterinarian or the testing laboratory you may be asked to re-submit another sample