

Equine Abortions

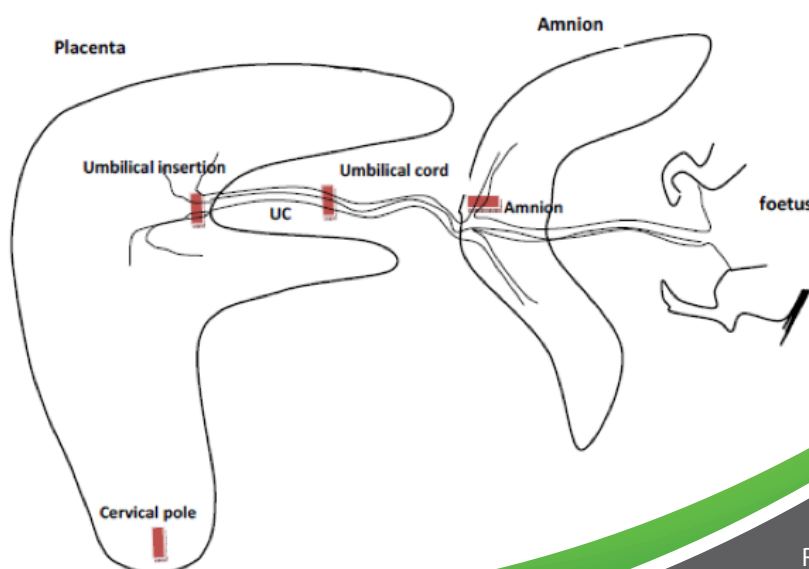
All equine abortions should be treated as infectious. *Chlamydia psittaci* has been documented in cases of equine abortion in Australia and is zoonotic. Use disposable gloves and outerwear which can be properly disinfected. A mask (P2/N95 or higher rating; surgical masks may not be effective) and goggles should be worn to protect the face from splashing fluids. For NSW submitters please provide PIC number (property identification code) on the request form.

	EHV-1 PCR	Chlamydia PCR	Bacterial culture	Histopath
Panel code	VHT	VHT	VSP or VS	VMH
Specimen	Fresh tissue (or swabs in viral medium)	Fresh tissue (or dry swabs in saline)	Fresh tissue (or swabs in transport medium)	Formalin fixed tissues (5 or more, as below)
Placenta	a	a		b
Stomach contents			+	
Lung	+	+	+	+
Liver	+	+		+
Spleen	+	+		+
Thymus	+			+
Kidney				Optional
Heart				Optional

Footnotes:

a = preferred sample is single dry swab of multiple sites across the placenta (amnion, umbilical cord between amnion and chorioallantois, chorioallantois near umbilical cord insertion). Alternative sample is fresh tissue (chorioallantois or pool of each of those sites).

b = amnion, umbilical cord between amnion and chorioallantois, chorioallantois near umbilical cord insertion, chorioallantois at cervical pole.



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General Sampling Advice continued ...

EHV-1 PCR, Chlamydia PCR (panel code VHT)

- Submit individual tissues in separate sterile screw top jars. Label these jars e.g. “Fresh lung – PCR”
- Duplicate sets of tissues are not required (i.e. the same piece of each tissue can be tested for both EHV-1 and Chlamydia).
- Bacterial culture (panel code VSP or VS)
- Additional cultures can be added (e.g. placenta, other tissues showing lesions)
- Fungal culture can be added (e.g. placenta, lesions)
- Histopathology (panel code VMH)
- Take one sample (1cm thick x 2-3 cm) of each tissue
- All tissues can be submitted in one screw top jar, if adequate formalin
- In addition to standard range of tissues, include any other lesion or tissue showing lesions

SUMMARY

Fresh placenta, lung, liver, spleen, thymus for **EHV-1 PCR, Chlamydia PCR**

- separate labelled sterile screw top jars
- OR for placenta, single dry swab (multiple sites across placenta)

Fresh stomach contents, FNA needle cores of lung for **Bacterial culture**

- separate labelled sterile screw top jars (or swabs)

Formalin-fixed placenta, lung, liver, spleen, thymus for **Histopathology**

- one screw top jar, if adequate formalin