

SAMPLING METHODS
SM2 - Version 01

1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- Sterile cotton swab.
- Amies transport medium with charcoal, favouring the survival of mycoplasmas.

2 STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

Sterile cotton swab: Store at room temperature (check expiry date).

Transport medium: Store at room temperature (do not freeze, check expiry date).

3 SAMPLING METHODS

- Use a sterile cotton swab to take an individual sample.
A tracheal swab is preferable, as the trachea contains fewer unwanted bacteria that could interfere with mycoplasma isolation than the palatine cleft. However, in young animals, samples should be collected from the palatine cleft.
- Insert the swab into the transport medium.
- Quickly store the samples in a cool environment ($5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$).

4 PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION OF SAMPLES TO THE LABORATORY

- Place the samples in a sealed isothermal container with one or more cool packs, ensuring no direct contact with the swabs.
- Submit to the laboratory or dispatch as soon as possible.

KEY POINTS

1. Do not freeze the swabs after sampling.
2. Maintain a temperature close to $5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ to support the survival of mycoplasmas.
3. Properly label the sample and clearly indicate the collection date.