

Sample Collection Guide

PI-test® - Collection of Hair Samples

20th July, 2026

Sample Collection Kits

Sample collection packs for hair samples are available free of charge from the Virology Laboratory, EMAI (details below).

Samples

- Collect long, thick hairs from the switch/brush of the tail.
- **SHORT, FINE BODY HAIRS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR THIS ANALYSIS.**
- It is important that hairs are clean and dry.
- It is essential that the hair roots (which are clearly visible as bulbous protrusions) are attached to the plucked hairs that are submitted for pestivirus analysis.
- To avoid cross-contamination of hairs from different animals, it may be necessary to wash hands and any instruments between samplings.

Sampling procedure

1. Write the animal identification on the sticker that will hold the hairs to the card. If there is more than one animal to be sampled, prepare a key list and write the KEY NUMBER (1, 2, 3, 4, etc) on the label and the animal identification on the key list sheet. The animal identification will appear on the laboratory report.
2. Select 15-20 tail hairs. Wrap the hairs around your finger or hold with pliers or a similar instrument, and pluck with a rapid, sharp upward motion. Repeat the procedure to obtain about 20 to 30 hairs. The hooked or bulbous hair roots plucked from under the skin should be clearly visible.
3. Secure the hairs to the card with the sticker provided so that the hair roots are placed over the appropriate box. Trim any hair that extends more than 1-2 cm beyond the sticker. Hairs should not be longer than the card.
4. Place the card with trimmed hair into the plastic bag supplied. Keep samples cool at all times until shipment.
5. Submit samples to the laboratory as soon as possible and within 2 weeks of collection.

Sending samples to laboratory

1. Complete a Veterinary Laboratory Specimen Advice Form, with full details of the owner, person submitting the samples and full name and address of the veterinary practice. These details must be completed, or your samples may not be processed. Please select **PI-test (hair)** on the rear of the form.
2. Ensure that the total number of samples is shown on the form together with the sample key numbers and corresponding animal identification. If there are >15 samples, please contact Customer Service via email (laboratory.services@dpiird.nsw.gov.au) for the electronic key-list (excel document) and instructions on how to use/submit this.
3. Samples and the accompanying paperwork are then dispatched via courier or post as detailed below.
4. Additional copies of the veterinary specimen advice form can be downloaded from:
https://www.dpiird.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/680425/Veterinary-Specimen-Advice-Form.pdf

Contact Us

For assistance or further information contact Customer Service.

Business hours:	8:30am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday (excluding public holidays)
Phone:	1800 675 623
Email:	laboratory.services@dpiird.nsw.gov.au
Delivery address:	NSW DPIRD Animal and Plant Health Laboratories (APHL)- Laboratory Services EMAI Woodbridge Road Menangle, NSW 2568
Order PI-Test® kits online:	Sample collection kits for NSW APHL- Click Here