

International and Interstate Testing of Animals for Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Antibodies

Please confirm with the state or country receiving the animals as to the test requirements for shipping into that state or country. Note that many state labs can conduct the virus neutralization and complement fixation tests. Please check with the lab in your state to confirm test capabilities prior to collecting and shipping serum samples to them.

Submission procedure for the NVSL-Ames

1. Contact the Area Veterinarian In Charge (AVIC; Federal Veterinarian for your state) for permission to submit samples to the NVSL. The website to find the AVIC for your state is: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/
 2. Use VS Form 10-4 to submit samples.
 - a. VS Form 10-4 may be downloaded from: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/lab_info_services/forms_publications.shtml Alternatively, the form can be faxed to you by the NVSL or your AVIC.
 - b. Include your fax number or email address so test results can be faxed or emailed to you.
 - c. Include the date you need the test results.
 - d. Indicate specific VS test(s) requested. Tests include:
 - i. CELISA (competitive ELISA)
 - ii. VN (virus neutralization) or SN (serum neutralization): These are two names for the same test.
 - iii. CF (complement fixation)Testing will be delayed if a specific test is not requested because NVSL personnel will need to call the submitter. Phone calls will be made as time permits.
 - e. For the CF and VN, indicate the test dilution required for testing (e.g., 1:5 or 1:10 for the CF; 1:8 or 1:16 for the VN). This may vary depending on destination.
 - i. For interstate movement, check with the State Veterinarian's Office of the destination state. A list of state animal health officials is found at <http://www.usaha.org/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>
 - ii. For international movement, check the test and dilution required by the destination country. Destination countries do not always accept our standard dilutions. Requirements for many countries are found at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>. Or contact your AVIC.
 3. Current costs for each test are published at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/lab_info_services/downloads/AmesDiagnosticTestingCatalog.pdf
- Payment for services must be made in advance unless you have an account already established with the USDA.
- i. Payment may be in the form of check, money order, or bank draft in U.S. dollars and made payable to USDA.
 - ii. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are acceptable methods of payment. If paying with a credit card, please include the credit card number and expiration date on your submission form.

iii. If you have an account and would like the services billed to that account, please write your account number on the submission form. If you do not have an account and would like one, please contact APHIS Business Services in Minneapolis, MN, at 877-777-2128.

iv. If you have any questions regarding payment of user fees, contact the NVSL User Fee Help Line at 515-663-7571 or nvsl_concerns@aphis.usda.gov.

Collection/packaging of samples submitted to the NVSL-Ames

1. Submit clear serum on ice packs.
2. Submit a minimum of 2 ml serum per test requested.
3. Testing will be delayed if samples are submitted on the clot, and a processing charge may be applied.

Reporting test results

1. The primary method for reporting NVSL test results is by fax. If a fax number is not provided on the submission form, results may be returned by US mail.
2. The length of time to complete testing depends upon the number of tests performed and when the sample(s) arrive. Every effort is made to test samples as quickly as possible. The following are **general guidelines** from the time the samples are received until results are reported. Testing may take longer if samples arrive on a Friday or just before a holiday. Foreign animal disease investigation testing takes priority over animal movement testing.
 - a. CELISA: 2-3 days
 - b. CF: 2-3 days
 - c. VN: 5-7 days (generally set up on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays)
3. Results are reported as soon as completed. The results are reported only to the submitter and to the AVIC of the submitter's location state(s). Results are not reported to the animal owner.
4. The NVSL is very busy testing large numbers of samples and processing results. Requests for results by telephone cannot be accommodated, as this delays testing and reporting of everyone's results.