



Sampling fish for laboratory analysis

More comprehensive instructions can be found in the Fish Disease Investigation kit factsheet. If you have any queries regarding sample collection Gribbles Veterinary Pathology can be contacted on (08) 8202 3300.

Sample collection

Live finfish

Five to ten fish in a plastic bag filled 2/3 full with water from the same cage, pond or tank and placed on an ice brick.

Live crustaceans or molluscs

Five to ten live animals packed as for live sales, that is with ice bricks.

Dead fish

If live fish are not available or sending live fish is not practical, five to ten freshly dead fish on ice bricks can be sent. Fish dead for more than a few hours are of little use. Frozen fish are of little use.

Post mortem samples

If live fish are not available or sending live fish is not practical, trained growers or local veterinarians can perform post mortems and prepare samples for posting.

Water samples collected from 20 cm under the surface in a clean bottle may not be necessary but could be useful.

Sample packaging

All samples should be packed in a sealed bag, placed on an ice brick and sealed in a foam esky with the consignment note visible on top. It is important that water and ice melt cannot spill from the container.

For samples sent by airfreight, IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations, 650 Packing Instructions, need to be followed.

Sample labelling and recording

The minimum information to put on a sample label is:

- farm, site name and/or licence number
- cage, pond or tank number,
- fish number,
- date.

Alternatively:

- unique case number, that corresponds to records sent with the samples to the laboratory and a copy kept on the property
- date

Sending samples

The following courier options apply:

Gribbles Veterinary will collect samples from all parts of the metropolitan area and country towns that have a Gribbles Veterinary laboratory.

The following towns have Gribbles Veterinary laboratories (phone numbers included):

- Ashford 8375 5876
- Barossa Valley 8564 3807
- Broken Hill 8067 4200
- Cathedral 8367 0920
- Christies Beach 8186 1544
- Gawler 8523 2414
- Glenside (VETLAB) 8202 3300
- Modbury 8395 0426
- Mt Barker 8391 1722
- Mt Gambier 8723 2799
- Riverland 8582 3631
- St Andrews 8408 2162
- Wallaroo 8823 3440
- Wayville 8205 5655
- Whyalla 8645 7520

Other couriers:

- Wards Skyroad
- Security Express
- Busfreight

Contact the closest of the couriers listed above for details of collection and timing. The cost of other couriers will have to be paid by the sender unless previously arranged with Gribbles Veterinary.

Consignment notes can be obtained from Gribbles Veterinary in advance. When filling out consignment notes the following information is required:

- Sender: senders details.
- Receiver: VETLAB, 33 Flemington St, Glenside SA 5065, ph 8202 3300.
- Account number: Wards Skyroad WL 2665, Security Express IMVS00, Busfreight 602433.
- Standard services: Select overnight express.
- Description of goods: Animal diagnostic sample "Not Restricted".

If you do not have a consignment note or if a consignment note is not required e.g. busfreight, include all relevant information clearly displayed on the samples.

Further information:

PIRSA Aquaculture SA
GPO Box 1625
ADELAIDE SA 5001
Ph. 08 8226 0314
Fax. 08 8226 0330

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