

Thank you for assisting with animal and/or environmental sampling as we try to determine the source of germs that are making people sick. Certain germs, such as *Salmonella*, can be present in farm or pet animals. These germs may not cause illness or symptoms in animals but can make people sick.

These samples will be tested at a lab to look for germs that are genetically linked to human illnesses. For more information, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html>.

Please review the appropriate companion video instructions linked below before proceeding:



Animal and Environmental Sampling: Lizards
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gelKlqnM7Ps>



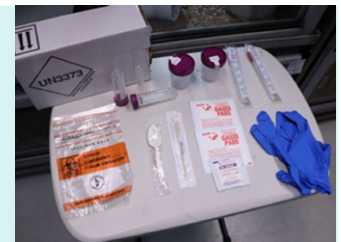
Animal and Environmental Sampling: Turtles
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3cT6eDm8x4>

Sampling Priorities

Please collect the marked samples below. Public health partners have determined these samples are most relevant based on this investigation.

- Food
- Food/water dishes
- Stool
- Tank/enclosure walls
- Tank water
- Floor material
- Belly/body
- Shell
- Cloaca*
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

**Note: Cloacal swabbing is not recommended unless performed by trained professional.*



PREPARATION

1

Contact your public health laboratory for sample collection and shipping directions that are specific to your investigation and laboratory testing.

Gather all necessary supplies for easy access before starting sample collection. Label all containers as required by your public health laboratory (location, date, time, etc).

Example Supplies:

- Gloves
- Sterile swabs, sterile gauze
- Sterile transport medium
- Sterile screw capped tubes or culturette kits
- Sterile container
- Fecal collection vial
- Sterile tongue depressor
- Sterile syringe

2

Put on gloves before handling the animal or their environment.

ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES

3

Moisten swabs or gauze to prepare for sampling by pouring a small amount of sterile water onto them.



4

Wipe moistened swabs or gauze over surfaces to collect samples from inside of enclosure walls, food and water dishes, and other items inside enclosure.



5

Place moistened gauze or swabs into vials with transport media (e.g. sterile water or culture medium) and seal for transport.



For Aquatic Species: First remove the animal from the water. Do not place the animal in a bathtub, sink, or any other area where food is prepared. Thoroughly mix the water to distribute any particulates. Use the syringe and suction out between 5-10ml of water from the "murkiest" area, which is usually near the bottom of the tank. Place sample into empty sterile container and seal.

STOOL SAMPLE

6

Scoop samples of fecal material with sterile instrument or clean plastic spoon and place into sterile container with no transport media.



FOOD SAMPLES

7

Collect a small sample of food and place into a sterile container with no media.

If the reptile is fed live worms, crickets, or other type of insect, swabbing of the food container can be performed instead of collecting the food itself.



ANIMAL SAMPLES

8

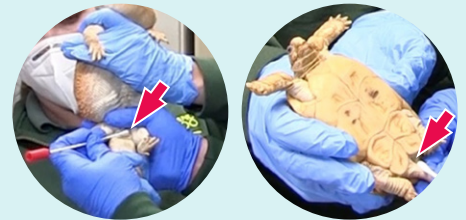
Using moistened swabs or culturette kit, gently roll along the underside of the turtle or reptile.



9

Take a second moistened swab and gently wipe near cloacal opening or vent.

Note: *In male turtles the vent is closer to end of the tail than in females.*



PACKAGING

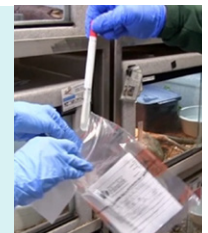
10

Ensure containers are properly labelled, closed and sealed.

Place containers with collected samples into clear plastic biohazard bag along with absorbent cloth.

Complete appropriate laboratory paperwork and finalize packing.

Follow packaging and shipping instructions from your public health laboratory.



11

After all samples are properly packaged, remove and dispose of gloves and wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.

