

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY DIVISION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

P.O BOX 997

STATE OF MONTANA

(406) 994-4885
FAX (406) 994-6344

BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59771-0997

SUBJECT: Trichomonas culture
FROM: Bill Layton
DATE: April 12, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Layton".

Dear Colleague:

Several times over the last three months, there have been delays in mail arriving to the laboratory during the normal workweek. Practitioners have mailed trichomonas cultures on Thursday expecting the normal 24-hour delivery service to occur. These cultures were delayed and did not arrive until Saturday. Typically, the weekend mail is not opened until Monday morning and in the interim, the mail is kept refrigerated in bulk. Most practitioners are aware that freezing and refrigeration may interfere with trichomonas cultures attempts. **In order to avoid this possibility, please, advise the laboratory staff when mailing trichomonas cultures on Thursday or Friday to assure that the samples are removed from the weekend mail and not refrigerated.**

An interesting article was published in Veterinary Record on 2-27-1999 titled: *Effects of Temperature on the Survival of Tritrichomonas foetus in transport, Diamonds and InPouch TF media*. In this article, field strain of *Tritrichomonas foetus* inoculated into InPouch TF media could still be cultured after five days of refrigeration. We recently repeated the protocol published in this article and had similar findings using InPouch TF media. The results are encouraging but the number of samples tested in both studies is too small to draw resolute conclusions. In addition, the InPouch TF manufacturer's printed recommendations specifically state that inoculated pouches should be maintained at a temperature of 60-100 degrees F prior to incubation.

I strongly urge practitioners to follow the manufacturers recommendations to avoid any perceived or real compromise of trichomonas culture attempts. If you have the remotest concern that the samples will arrive on Saturday, let us know and we will make certain that these samples are removed from the bulk of the mail. Thank you for all your help.