



Trans-tracheal Aspirate Collection Procedure for the Adult Horse (approx. 500kg)

1. Sedate the horse
2. Place the horse's head on a dental stand, with the head elevated
3. Identify your sampling site: Midline over the trachea, in the middle third of the tracheal length, where the trachea is most superficial. Ensure the neck is straight to ensure incising on midline (and not near the jugular vein or oesophagus)
4. Ideally clip a large patch, wide enough that you will be able to stabilise the trachea in a lateral-lateral direction without breaking asepsis
5. Aseptically prepare the patch
6. Infiltrate 1-2 ml of local anaesthetic subcutaneously at the sampling site
7. Once the local anaesthetic has taken effect, make a stab incision through the skin using a number 15 scalpel blade (having sterile swabs available to wipe bleeding can be helpful)
8. Pass an 12G catheter between two tracheal rings on the midline, perpendicular to the trachea, remove the stylet
9. Pass a transtracheal aspirate catheter or dog urinary catheter (5Fr-6Fr and 100cm length) through this, approximately 20cm into the trachea
10. Pass 20mls sterile saline through the tracheal aspirate catheter, then advance the aspirate catheter until the sample is able to be aspirated.
11. Withdraw the aspirate catheter, leaving it attached to the syringe to maintain sterility of the sample, place this somewhere sterile. Avoid touching the catheter to prevent contamination of your gloves
12. Apply sterile gauze swabs with a patch of iodine applied onto the stab incision as the primary catheter is removed from the neck. These can be bandaged in place under pressure to minimise the likelihood of subcutaneous emphysema
13. Transfer 4 drops of sample into a charcoal swab case and mix in using the swab
14. Transfer sample into an EDTA tubes for cytology. If desired, prior to this some can be transferred to a plain sample pot or swab for PCR.

Please contact us on 01626 355 655 if you have any questions.

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