

NASAL SWAB COLLECTION IN PIGS

STEP 1



- Ensure the pig is adequately restrained with the head positioned upward. Young pigs may be restrained by holding animals against the handler's body or larger animals may be restrained with a snare. The snare should be positioned back in the mouth so that nasal openings aren't closed off.

STEP 2



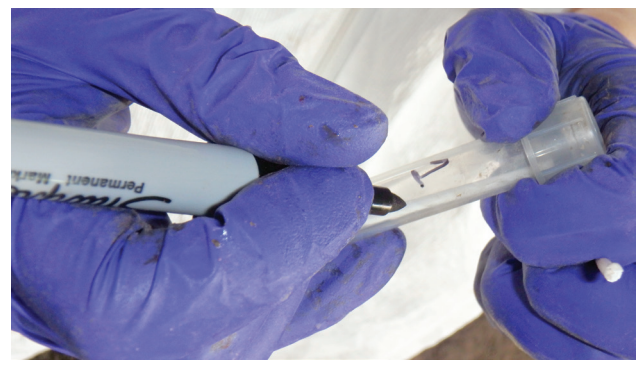
- Wipe off snout and insert sterile swab deep into nasal cavity, avoiding contact with the outside of the nostril.
- Rotate swab hard enough on the inside of the nose to collect the sample, but not so hard as to draw a lot of blood (small amount OK) which may interfere with diagnostics.
- Repeat the process with the other nostril, using the same swab.

STEP 3



- Place the swab in the sample tube containing the medium, release the medium from the ampule at the end of the sheath (if applicable).
- Stir the swab in the medium to facilitate release of the sample. When applicable, break off the shaft within the tube and securely close the tube.

STEP 4



- Number each tube with a permanent marker. Appropriate paperwork must include the animal or group identification, Premises Identification Number, date, and species. Make a note that the sample is a nasal swab.

COLLECTING SAMPLES FROM BABY PIGS

- Nasal swab sampling of baby pigs is possible. However, because of the smaller size of their nostrils, a mini swab needs to be used. Restraint can be accomplished by holding the piglet tight against the handler's body. Just as with older animals, both nostrils should be swabbed with swabs handled the same way after collection.

Photos courtesy of Alex Ramirez, Iowa State University

