

## MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING

Generally, transport swabs are recommended for routine bacteriology. Charcoal medium is suitable for both aerobic and anaerobic cultures. Specific viral swabs or tissue are required for viral recovery. If the latter is being sent please contact the lab first to ascertain the correct tissues and/or preservatives required.

- For the detection of pox virus a scab for electron microscopy is required. Scabs are also required for the demonstration of dermatophilus. Cultures may be performed on skin scrapes, but contamination is high and a separate transport swab is recommended. It is always better to send transport swabs of lesions rather than parts of organs, as these can degenerate badly in the post.
- Specific Chlamydial swabs are available but moistened dry swabs are also suitable for Chlamydia demonstration, but must not be allowed to dry out. A small piece of cotton wool moistened with PBS placed at bottom of the swab case will help prevent this.
- Milk samples should be collected, after suitable topical skin disinfection, into a clean sterile container. Universal containers are ideal.