

SWANS Veterinary Services



Are you tired of tail bleeding cows?

Ear notching may have replaced blood testing to diagnose PI's but blood tubes have still been necessary to screen animals for antibodies to BVDV. We at Swans' are excited to introduce a new tool to our veterinary clients to assist them in investigating and managing BVDV.

The TEGO Animal Blood Collection Kit was developed in Australia and is currently being marketed both here and overseas for genetic testing offering superior sample stability than traditional methods. When we were introduced to the TEGO device we immediately began investigating the suitability of the product for BVDV antibody testing.

The TEGO is comprised of a simple disposable device consisting of a plastic housing enshrouding a set of retractable blades providing a safe way to collect blood from an animal's ear onto a specially designed absorbent card. The device is applied with a pair of Allflex tagging pliers. The shrouded sharps make a small cut, as the blood wells to the surface it is absorbed by the card. Once enough blood has collected on the card, taking from a few seconds to half a minute, the device is pulled free from the ear, the card removed from the device, and the card is placed in a small included specialized envelope. The small individually labeled cards can then be mailed to our lab for analysis without requiring any special handling.

After performing validation work, we found them perfectly adaptable for BVDV antibody testing. Much like ear notch testing has simplified and reduced the cost of PI diagnosis, the TEGO devices can be utilized on farm in place of tail or jugular bleeding. The samples are remarkably stable and can be mailed without any special handling. Once they arrive they are tested using an antibody ELISA.

The TEGO devices represent the next logical step for our lab in our mission to continue helping vets and their producers to manage BVDV more simply and cost effectively.

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