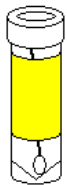


SAMPLING PROTOCOL FOR AMPHIBIAN CHYTRID FUNGUS

1. Use fine tip swabs from Advantage Bundling/Medical Wire Co. (catalog number MW113). If you do not have these swabs they can be provided for you at the web address listed below. Avoid using the larger cotton tip plastic handled swabs as they require more reagent to process. In addition, avoid using wood handled swabs, as they can be associated with PCR inhibitors (and false-negative results).
→ Sample kit requests:
Write to amphibianlab@sandiegozoo.org. Please include a shipping address and the number of kits needed. A kit consists of one swab, one cap, and one tube.
2. Using a single swab, gently swab the ventral surfaces of the skin approximately 20-30 times. Target areas to include the pelvic patch (5 passes with the swab), ventral thighs (5 passes each side with the swab) and toe webbing (5 passes on each foot). It is not necessary to swab the dorsal skin surfaces. If pooling swabs, utilize only 1 swab per group of animals (4 animals max).
3. Break the swab approximately 2-3 cm from the tip and drop the tip into an empty screw-top tube. Avoid contact of the swab with the outside of the tube. Air-dry the swabs for approximately 5 minutes. Avoid contact of the drying swab with environmental surfaces, substrates, water droplets or other animals.
4. Using a fine tip permanent marker, label tube with:
 - Species (common name and/or genus)
 - Individual amphibian ID number
 - Date collected



→ If you prefer to use a pre-printed label, make sure it is placed in the highlighted area of the tube.

5. For short-term storage samples can be kept at room temperature, or at 4°C for a week to 2 weeks. Samples can also be frozen for longer-term storage. Most importantly, **avoid** high temperatures and direct sunlight.

Shipment of Samples

Ship samples to:

Amphibian Disease Lab
15600 San Pasqual Valley Road
Escondido, CA 92027
(760) 291-5471

If samples have been stored frozen, they should be shipped by overnight courier (Fed Ex, UPS, DHL) on dry ice.

If samples have been refrigerated, or kept at room temperature, shipping in a box with cold packs is recommended. However, room temperature samples can also be sent alone in a packing envelope.

We accept packages 6 days a week. See shipping type examples below.



Dry Ice Shipment



Ice Pack Shipping



Envelope Shipping