

Sample Collection for Avian Influenza (AI)

USDA AND UTCVM GUIDELINES

Testing for AI must be performed by NAHLN-approved laboratories. The Virology/Immunology Diagnostic Lab has been granted special permission by TDA and TWRA to perform AI testing on raptors submitted by licensed rehabbers or by our necropsy service.

Submissions from licensed rehabbers MUST come with a license number, contact information, and the name and contact information of a UTCVM veterinarian familiar with your case. If this information is not provided or the clinician does not approve of testing, samples will be destroyed, and testing will not be processed.

Raptors include the following birds of prey and other species, for example: eagles, hawks, vultures, falcons, kestrels, ospreys, owls, herons, storks, etc. Domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail, pheasants, and other gallinaceous birds do NOT qualify. Birds traditionally considered exotic or pets such as parakeets, macaws, cockatoos, etc. also do NOT qualify.



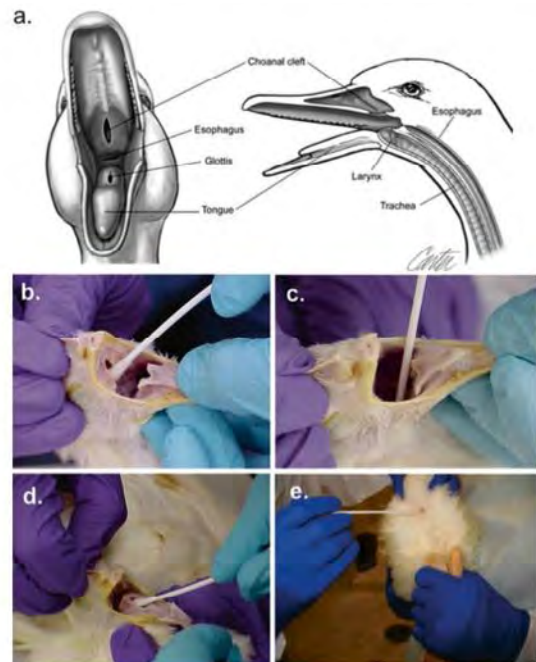
Testing will be done by quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assay using NPIP and NAHLN-approved methodologies. All non-negative results will be forwarded to the office of the state veterinarian of Tennessee, and a foreign animal disease (FAD) investigation may or may not be commenced under their jurisdiction and guidance.

Accepted swabs are oropharyngeal (OP) or cloacal (CL). Cloacal for wild birds are preferred. Samples must be sent to the V/I DLS in viral transport media (VTM).

Samples

Swab samples may only be pooled if all of the following criteria are met:

- Up to 5 samples (3mL of VTM is required)
- Same premises/house/barn
- Same species
- Same sampling route



Swab collection: a) schematic of oral cavity; b-d) tracheal/oropharyngeal (TR/OP) swabs preferred for gallinaceous poultry; e) cloacal (CL) swabs preferred for domestic waterfowl and wild birds.

From: Methods in molecular biology, vol. 436: Avian influenza virus. E. Spackman, ed. Humana Press, Totowa, NJ. pp. 95. 2008

Test results will be available up to 2 business days from receipt of the sample. Samples can be sent on ice packs to:

ATTN: Virology/Immunology Diagnostic Laboratory
Room A239
University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine
2407 River Drive
Knoxville, TN 37922

Please do not hesitate to contact the V/I DLS at (865) 974-5880 for any questions or concerns.