SAMPLING PROTOCOL FOR RANAVIRUSES

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 tend to absorb more of the sample supernatant. In addition, avoid using wood handled swabs, as they can be associated with PCR inhibitors (and false-negative results).
   ➔You can also request a Sampling Kit from our laboratory. Write to amphibianlab@sandiegozoo.org and send a mailing address and number of samples for supplies.
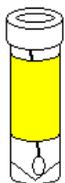
2. **Swab method**
   Using a single swab, gently swab the oropharyngeal surfaces of the mouth in a gentle circular motion. Target areas to include are the tongue, roof and sides of the oral cavity.

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. Avoid contact of the 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

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

5. Immediately freeze the samples at -20°C.

1. **Tissue method**
   Include a sampling of the deceased animals' tissue. The preferred tissues include: liver, spleen, kidney, or skin (with lesion).

2. Using aseptic techniques cut a pinky nail sized sample of the sample and place it in a vial (such as the one pictured above). Take care not to touch the sample to the outside of the vial.

3. Follow the labeling guidelines as suggested step #4 of the swab method.

4. Immediately freeze the samples at -20°C.

Shipment of Samples

Ship samples to:

        Amphibian Disease Lab
        15600 San Pasqual Valley Road
        Escondido, CA 92027
        (760) 747-8702 x5471

Ship the sample(s) on dry ice by an overnight courier (Fed Ex, UPS, DHL).