



Ticks and Fly Larvae Submissions to TAHC State-Federal Laboratory

It is important to confirm that ticks are not cattle fever ticks (*Rhipicephalus microplus* or *R. annulatus*) and fly larvae are not New World screwworms (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*). Veterinarians suspecting an animal may be infested with these troublesome pests are encouraged to call TAHC at 1-800-550-8242 or contact their TAHC Region Office to discuss sample submission.

1. Specimens should be placed in 2-4 ml of 70% isopropyl alcohol in a 10-mL tube and capped. Secure tube stopper with one piece of tape only. Package specimens well to prevent breakage during shipment.
2. Complete and enclose a submission form. Use either a form provided by the TAHC State-Federal Lab or a copy downloaded from https://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/VS_Form5_38.pdf ("Parasite Submission Form"). On the form, complete all applicable boxes/sections above the "FOR FIELD LABORATORY USE ONLY". To ensure a response, please provide complete contact information (e.g., email, phone number) for the collector/submitter.

Tube mailers are available that are already pre-addressed with a Business Reply Label (postage paid by TAHC). Please take the mailer to a US Post Office for mailing. Expedited or overnight shipments (using either USPS, LSO, FedEx, or UPS) should also be considered.

TAHC State-Federal Laboratory
8200 Cameron Rd
Suite A186
Austin, TX 78754

Call the Lab at 512-832-6580 for any questions, kits, and mailing labels.

Resources

TAHC Fever Tick Brochure:

http://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_FeverTick.pdf

USDA-VS Pest Alert Brochure:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/tick/downloads/pest_alert.pdf

Screwworm Factsheet (USDA-APHIS):

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2014/fs_new_world_screwworm.pdf

Screwworm Images:

<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/disease-images.php?name=screwworm-myiasis&lang=en>