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COLLECTION OF SEMEN FOR *B. ovis* ISOLATION AND PCR

Semen cultures are useful when applied with serology and scrotal palpation, however, the specimen may contain contaminants that will often overgrow *B. ovis*. Semen PCR is useful to quickly determine the presence of *B. ovis*. To minimize contamination of the inoculum, great care should be exercised during the entire collection process. As always, observe appropriate safety precautions when obtaining semen samples.

1. Label a whirl-pak bag, or other suitable sterile container, with the proper identification of the animal.
2. Place the ram in a sitting position and clip the hair and wool from around the preputial opening.
3. Push the penis forward and out of the prepuce. Using a paper tissue to improve grip, grasp exposed penis behind the glans.
4. Lay ram on its side and insert the electrostimulator into the rectum.
5. Direct the glans of the penis into the sterile container and apply current to the electrostimulator. Collect at least 500 μ L of semen.
6. Refrigerate specimen immediately after collection. Transport with cold packs in a leak-proof, well-insulated container.

Note: Specimens must be received within 24 hours after collection.