SAMPLE COLLECTION:

MENINGEAL SWAB

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Consult with a diagnostician on appropriate swab and transport media.
- If samples are tested by PCR, do not use swabs with agar.
- Preferred euthanasia methods are electrocution, euthanasia solution, and CO₂.
- Before performing a full necropsy, collect the meningeal swab first.
- Use personal protective equipment.
- Use sterile supplies to avoid sample contamination.
- Label samples with permanent marker.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place the pig on its back (dorsal recumbency).
2. Remove tissue, tongue, trachea, and esophagus from jaw to chest, exposing the cervical spine.
3. Flex the head up and down to identify the “yes” joint (atlanto-occipital joint).
4. With a clean knife, make an incision in the middle of the joint to expose the spinal cord, occipital condyles and meninges. Do not touch this area to avoid contamination.
5. Place the sterile swab into the space around the spinal cord ($) and slightly into the skull and swirl.
6. Place the swab into a labeled, sterile tube. Promptly refrigerate samples for shipment and submit to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

SUPPLIES:

- Knives
- Sterile swab
- Sampling tube
- Cooler and icepacks
- Submission form
- Permanent marker