

In pigs, what samples do I need for the most common disease investigations?

ALWAYS COLLECT THE TONSIL!

Please note:

1. Whether you submit two or ten tissues, these will be treated as a multiple fixed tissues, so it is always advantageous to also collect and submit major organs: heart, kidney, liver, spleen, and lung for all investigations.
2. When multiple animals are affected, it is often more rewarding to evaluate multiple animals as diseases can range in the presentation of lesions. We do have a multiple animal disease investigation fee that we can use in these cases.

Respiratory Disease:

- Fresh and fixed tonsil
- Fresh and fixed lung
- Nasal turbinates (not essential, but nice to have if there are no gross lesions in the lungs)

Diarrhoea:

- Fresh and fixed tonsil
- Fresh and fixed Small intestine (10-15 x 1cm long) (duodenum, jejunum, ileum)
- Fixed colon, spiral colon, stomach, and oesophagus (one piece each minimum)
- Faeces or intestinal contents
- Mesenteric lymph node(s)

Other things to look at during the postmortem: Contents of the intestinal tract (especially distal colon) and size of the mesenteric lymph nodes.

Pigs should be euthanized, and intestinal tissues placed in formalin within 5-10 minutes of death to optimize the ability to detect lesions.

Neurologic pigs:

AVOID using captive bolt/shot gun methods to euthanize neurologic animals

- Fresh and fixed brain (it is okay to send in the head)
- Fresh and fixed skeletal muscle, spinal cord, peripheral nerves

Musculoskeletal:

- OCD lesions are a gross diagnosis. If you are not sure – take photos! Send them to info@SVSLabs.nz for an anatomic pathologist to review.
- Synovium/synovial fluid (fresh, fixed, fluid (dry swab & culture swab))

Abortions:

Send in multiple fetuses from the litter with the placenta.

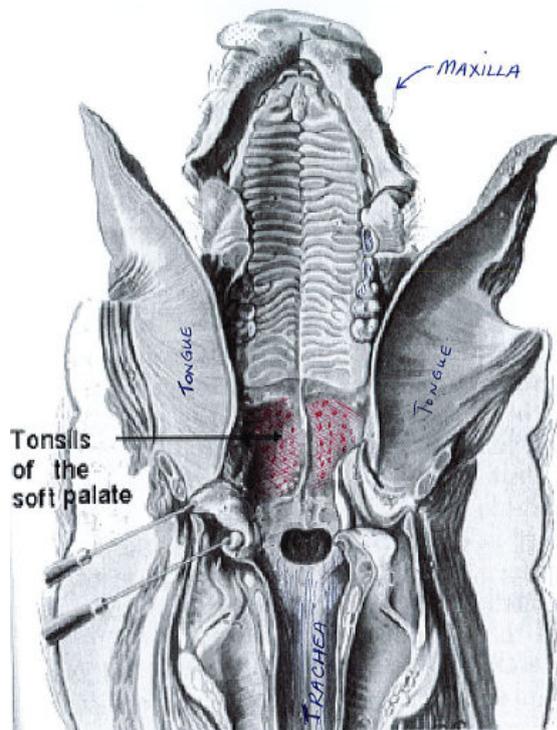
It is okay to freeze aborted fetuses in case the abortion is the index case of an abortion storm.

Finding the tonsil in a pig:

The tonsil in a pig can be tested for many diseases of interest in the pig and is very important to collect this tissue (fresh and fixed).

The primary tonsil in the pig is the tonsil of the soft palate. It is located at the end of the soft palate caudal. It looks like it has multiple pinpoint holes in the tissue.

With the pig laying on its back, carefully remove the pluck/tongue. Looking towards the roof of the mouth, it is at the caudal end of the soft palate. In small piglets, it is easy to cut through the tonsil when removing the pluck.



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