



Serology Submissions

General

- Veterinary Laboratory Europe does not conduct serologic testing. You should send submissions of animal sera directly to the DoD Veterinary Laboratory at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Military Working Dog (MWD) Serology

- MWD Serologic Testing Policies
 - IAW the DoD Dog Center directive and policy memorandum dated 20 JUL 01 attached in Appendix G, dogs are no longer tested annually for Yearly *Babesia* sp. and *Ehrlichia* sp. exposure.
 - Serum and whole blood still must be collected annually from every MWD and submitted to the VETCOM Laboratory at Fort Sam Houston, Texas (FSH) for banking / archival.
 - Additionally, serum from deploying MWD's should be collected and submitted to the FSH Vet Lab before and after deployment outside the dog's country of permanent station. Record all submitted sera samples in the dog's health record.
- VETCOM Lab offers continued testing of sera from MWD's deployed to Bosnia.
 - Collect serum prior to the dog's departure, and approximately one month after the dog returns.
 - Make sure to specifically request Babesia serology and mention that the deployment is/was to Bosnia or Kosovo.
 - The VETCOM Lab will likely also extend this service for deployments to other high-risk countries in the Balkans upon specific request.
- MWD Serology Sample Collection
 - Aseptically collect enough blood in a large red top tube to yield 3-5 mLs of serum. Avoid lipemia and hemolysis.
 - After clotting, transfer the serum to a screw-top polypropylene container, and label the container with the dog's name, tattoo number, and submitting station identification. DO NOT transfer the serum to another glass tube.
 - Freeze the serum until shipment.



Serology Submissions (cont.)

- MWD Sera Submission Form - Use DoD Veterinary Laboratory Serological Test Request Forms, D-127 or D-126, both dated 9 FEB 01.
 - Use D-127, Military Working Dog Banked Sample Form, for annual submissions of MWD serum or pre-deployment or post-deployment samples. See Appendix K for this form.
 - Use D-126, Request For Military Working Dog Serological Testing For Clinical Samples, for clinical submissions for medical reasons. See Appendix H for this form.
 - Complete the form's blocks labeled: From (your unit), POC, Phone, FAX, Dog's Name, Tattoo#, and Date Sample Drawn.
 - Annotate on the top left corner of the form if the serum is an annual, pre-deployment, or post-deployment sample. Make any special requests as described above.
 - Use a separate form for each kennel location. Multiple dogs from the same kennel location should be included on one form as long as the samples are all annuals, or all pre- or post-deployment specimens.
- MWD Serum Shipment
 - Ship via US Postal Service express mail by coordinating with your installation's official mail manager.
 - Pack serum tubes to prevent breakage and leakage; wrap containers in paper towels, bubble wrap, etc. Place in an insulated shipping container with enough frozen gel pack refrigerant to keep the samples cold during transit.
 - If express mail is not available, sera may be preserved for un-refrigerated shipment by adding one drop of Thimerosal tincture per ml of serum (USP, 1:1000, NSN 6505-00-128-5705). If using this preservative method, indicate on the submission form that merthiolate was added.
 - Regardless of preservation method, sera must be shipped in watertight primary and secondary containers.
- MWD Serum Batching at VLE
 - If you have MWD serum samples intended for **archival only**, you may send them to VLE as an alternative to mailing them directly to VETCOM Lab. We will batch-ship them approximately quarterly.
 - Be sure to follow all collection, labeling, and submission form requirements as indicated above. Do not send MWD diagnostic serologic samples to VLE that are submitted for clinical reasons. Shipment to VLE should only occur if shipment to the VETCOM Lab is not feasible. Please contact the VLE pathologist in advance.