

Lumpy skin disease sample test kit



For Northern Territory cattle and buffalo owners

Producers who notice unusual skin disease in cattle, buffalo or banteng should use this kit when a veterinarian or livestock biosecurity officer is unable to attend the property to collect samples.

Instructions

Before you start, contact your regional veterinary or livestock biosecurity officer to discuss the case:

Darwin: 8999 2123

Katherine: 8973 9716

Tennant Creek: 8962 4458

Alice Springs: 8951 8181

Follow the skin biopsy instructions to collect samples.

Call your livestock biosecurity office to arrange delivery of your samples.

If you would like a lumpy skin disease sample test kit, you can contact your local livestock biosecurity officer.

 Join the Biosecurity Facebook Group [@biosecNT](https://www.facebook.com/biosecNT)

nt.gov.au/lumpy-skin-disease

THE
TERRITORY

How to take a skin biopsy sample

View the video at: nt.gov.au/lumpy-skin-disease

You will need:



Biopsy punch



Alcohol swabs



Vials - one plain and one filled with formalin



Forceps (tweezers)



Gloves

Follow the steps:



Step 1: Restrain the animal in a crush with a head bale.



Step 2: Take photos of the entire animal, and close ups of the skin lesions.



Step 3: Prepare the kit contents and put on gloves.



Step 4: Select a lesion to sample. Choose one that is a good representation of what you are seeing, where it looks like the disease is active (and not old or healing).

Wipe it with the alcohol swab to clean off any dirt.



Step 5: You are going to take the sample right on the edge of the normal skin and the unusual skin.

This will allow examination of both the healthy and diseased tissue at the same time and give the best chance of getting a diagnosis.



Step 6: Collect the skin sample by pushing down firmly on the biopsy punch while rotating it.

It will punch through the skin.

Press down until the plastic edge touches the skin.



Step 7: With the tweezers, take the skin sample out of the biopsy punch, or out of the wound if it is still in the wound.

Put it into the vial.



Step 8: Using the same biopsy punch, repeat these steps so that you have 4 samples for each animal:

- 2 samples in the PLAIN vial
- 2 samples in the FORMALIN vial



Step 9: Put some disinfectant into the wound sites. Call your local livestock biosecurity office to arrange sample delivery.

Healing occurs rapidly and the wound should heal within 2 weeks.