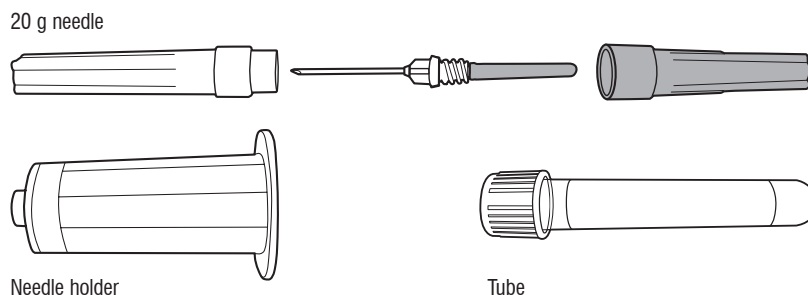


Blood Sample Collection Kit

How to collect a blood sample from a cow's tail for diagnostic testing*

Supplies needed

- Blood Sample Collection Kit, including:
 - 1-inch, 20 g, double-ended needle (yellow and gray caps)
 - Needle holder
 - Sample tube (red-top or lavender-top), 2 mL
- Paper towel
- Sharps container

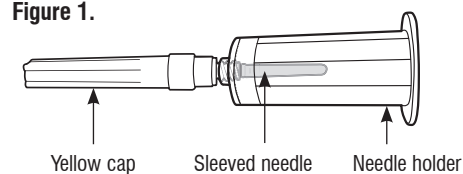


Assemble kit

1. Remove the gray plastic cap from the needle. The needle is covered by a rubber sleeve; leave this sleeve in place.
2. Holding the yellow cap, insert the sleeved needle through the outside of the small end of the needle holder, and screw the needle in. When finished, the needle will be inside the holder, pointing toward the large end (figure 1).

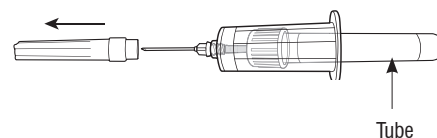
3. Insert the tube into the large end of the needle holder, stopper first, until the stopper just touches the end of the sleeved needle.
IMPORTANT: Do not let the needle puncture the stopper. Puncturing the stopper will release the tube's vacuum and prevent the tube from drawing blood.

Figure 1.



4. Pull off the yellow needle cap (figure 2), and place the needle assembly within easy reach.

Figure 2.



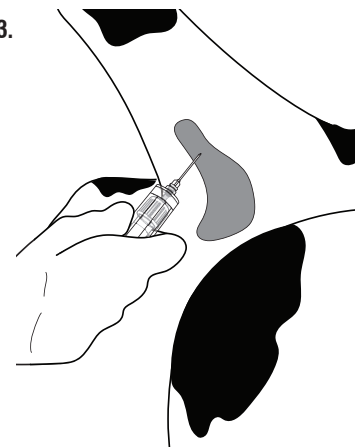
Collect the sample

1. Restrain the cow; clean the underside of the cow's tail with a paper towel.
2. Lift the cow's tail straight up, and measure up about **2 inches (7.5 cm)** from the base of the tail, staying within the groove between the two bony ridges. This is the collection site.
3. Insert the external needle into the underside of the tail, at the collection site, about 1/2 inch deep, keeping the needle **perpendicular** to the tail (figure 3).

IMPORTANT: The external needle **must be perpendicular to the tail**. Do not angle the needle up, down, or to the side.

4. Push the tube in gently until the internal needle punctures the tube stopper. The vacuum will draw the blood into the tube.
Note: If no blood appears, pull the external needle back slightly (without withdrawing it from the skin), and reinsert it in a different direction until you puncture the vein.
5. When the tube is at least half full, withdraw the needle from the vein and remove the tube from the needle holder.
6. Discard the needle and yellow/grey caps into a sharps container. The needle holder can be reused, if undamaged.
7. Make sure the tube label is clean and dry; label the tube with the sample number and the cow ID.

Figure 3.



*Refer to the test insert to determine valid sample types (e.g., serum, plasma). Contact your local regulatory authority to confirm there are no restrictions on drawing blood from an animal. Follow all test and laboratory instructions for storing and submitting the sample for testing.