



Scottish Deer Health Survey 2017-2019

**Food
Standards
Scotland**
Inbhe
Bidh Alba





- **Survey of Scottish wild deer to determine the prevalence of three diseases with relevance to human and deer health**
- **Run by Moredun Research Institute (lead) and the University of Edinburgh**
- **Funded jointly by FSS and the Scottish Government**

Diseases being screened for:



E. coli O157: bacteria in faeces which can cause human disease

Cryptosporidium: parasite which causes disease in humans and deer

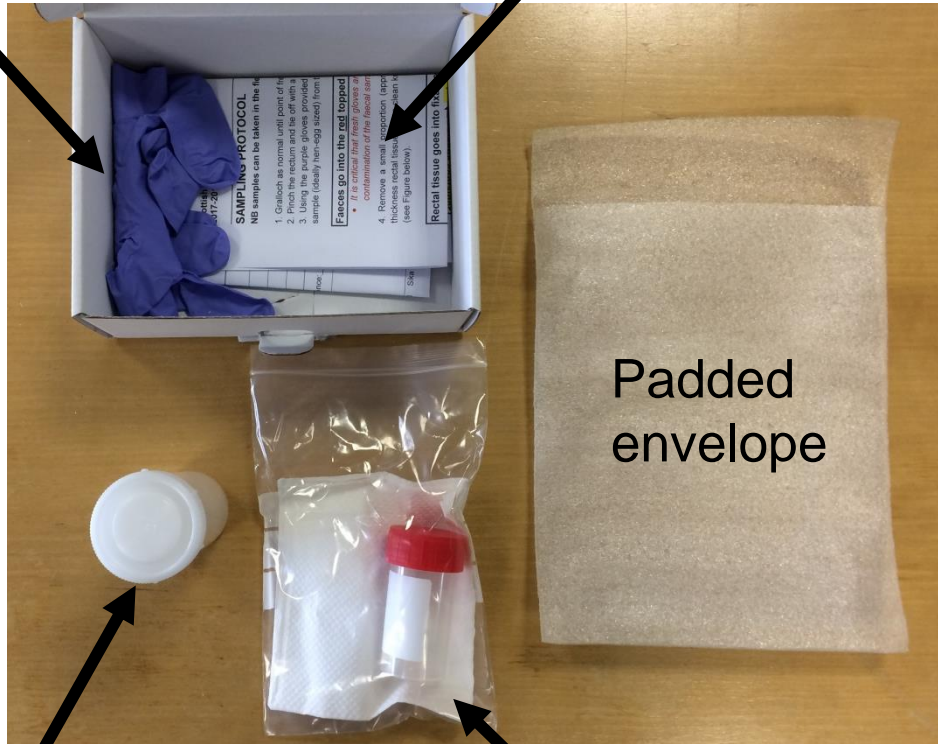
CWD (Chronic Wasting disease): prion disease affecting the deer (but not human) nervous system. Has not been reported in the UK

Sample packs



Gloves

Sample protocol/questionnaire



Padded envelope

Rectal tissue sample pot within plastic container

Faecal sample pot

Scottish Deer Health Survey
2017-2019



SAMPLING PROTOCOL

NB samples can be taken in the field or in the larder

1. Gralloch as normal until point of freeing the rectum.
2. Pinch the rectum and tie off with a cable tie or knot.
3. Using the purple gloves provided in the sampling kit collect a faecal sample (ideally hen-egg sized) from the rectum/back passage.

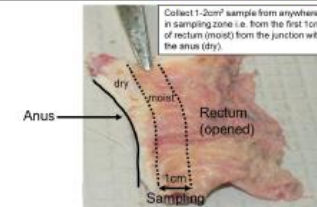
Faeces go into the red topped pot → put into sealed bag

- It is critical that fresh gloves are used to collect faeces to prevent contamination of the faecal sample

4. Remove a small proportion (approximate size of a 1p coin) of full-thickness rectal tissue with a clean knife or scissors from sampling zone (see Figure below).

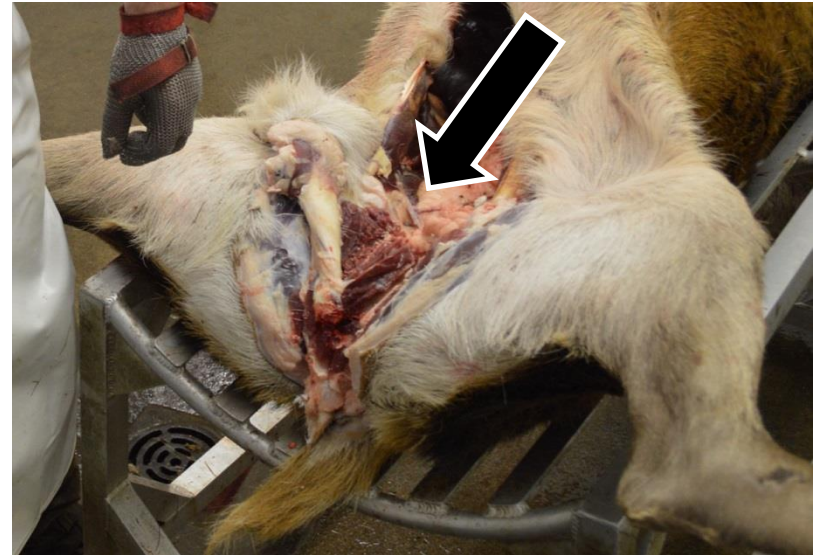
Rectal tissue goes into fixative (clear liquid) in white pot

→ put pot into solid plastic container



5. Complete the questionnaire.
6. Put both samples and the completed questionnaire into the labelled parcel box (make sure to complete SENDER address) and store in a cool place (ideally a fridge) before sending to Moredun Research Institute by FREEPOST (ideally within 24 hours of collection).

Sample collection



In the field OR in the larder
- whichever is easier!

Faecal samples for *E. coli* and *Cryptosporidium* screening

Faecal sample (egg sized) into red topped pot *then into plastic bag*

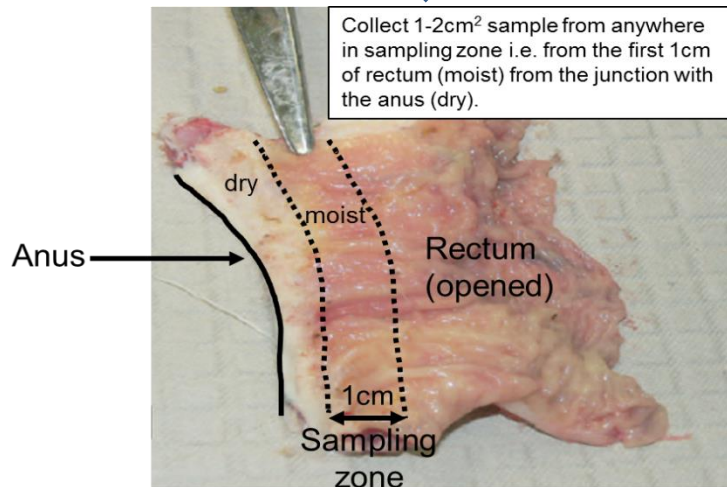
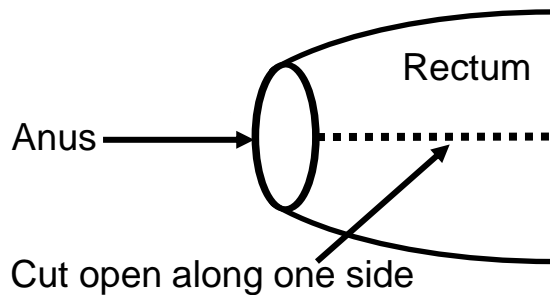


Wearing gloves provided is essential when collecting the sample (for sterility)

Rectal tissue samples for CWD screening



Collect from rectal sampling zone



Adapted from Keane (2009) J Clin Microbiol. doi:10.1128/JCM.02209-08

Tissue sample into white pot containing *fixative* then into *plastic container*





Complete the questionnaire

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2017-2019**

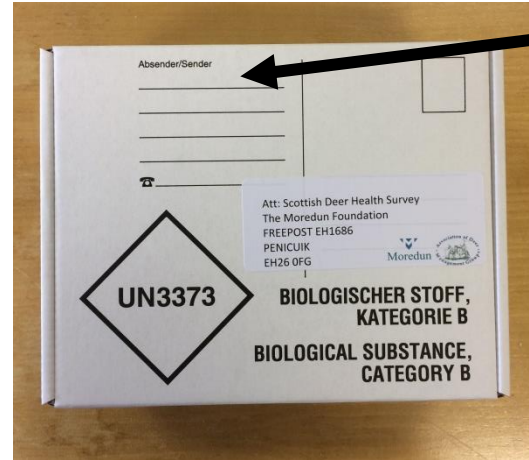
  

QUESTIONNAIRE

Date	
Time	
OS Reference of cull site	OS Sheet: _____ 6-digit grid reference: _____
Larder Address	
Deer species	Red <input type="checkbox"/> Roe <input type="checkbox"/> Sika <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other provide details: _____
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Estimated age	_____ years
Shared range with other livestock/ wild herbivores	Cattle <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep <input type="checkbox"/> Wild herbivores <input type="checkbox"/> If wild herbivores provide details below: _____

THANK-YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY

Send back samples and questionnaire in pre-paid parcel to Moredun Research Institute



Sender
address here

- **Complete SENDER address**
- **Packs sent by Royal Mail FREEPOST, ideally within 24 hr of collection**
- **Store packs in cool area (ideally a fridge) before sending**



Contact details

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Thank-you for participating in this survey