

DGZ Laboratory tracks presence of *Chlamydia suis* and *Chlamydia psittaci* in animal samples through PCR-research.

The laboratory of Animal Welfare Flanders will, from today on, take over responsibilities from Ghent University in light of *Chlamydia Suis* and *Chlamydia psittaci* diagnostics in animal samples. *Chlamydia psittaci* causes respiratory disease in birds and can be transmitted to humans, in which it can cause pneumonia. *Chlamydia suis* infects pigs and predominantly leads to keratoconjunctivitis and impaired fertility in sows and boars. In addition, it is suggested that this bacterium also plays a role in causing rhinitis, pneumonia, enteritis and arthritis.

Which samples can you offer to the lab of Animal Welfare for *Chlamydia* diagnostics?

- Live animal:
 - Birds: cloacal and/or pharyngeal swab
 - Pigs: rectal, vaginal or conjunctival swab
- Cadaver:
 - Swab in light of the injury and/or complication (lung, joint, conjunctiva) or a piece of the organ in question.
 - When delivering cadavers or organs, the lab will perform an autopsy or will collect a biopt.

The result will be published as followed on the test rapport.

- Presence detected (weak, mediocre, strong, very strong)
- No presence detected
- No certainty: it is unclear whether *Chlamydia suis* or *Chlamydia psittaci* are present in the sample. It is advised to provide a new sample.
- Inhibition: PCR reaction was inhibited due to poor quality of the sample. In this case, a new sample is mandatory.

Samples are offered together with a completed request form. A request form for each type of animal is to be found on the website of Animal Welfare Flanders.

- [Pigs](#)
- [Ruminant](#)
- [Poultry](#)
- [Horses](#)
- [Camelid](#)

The PCR-protocol for *Chlamydia suis* as well as *Chlamydia psittaci* detection is performed on individual samples, without pooling. Analyses are being executed twice every month.

All information concerning the rates is to be found on [the Animal Welfare webpage](#).

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Animal Welfare Flanders:

- Telephone: 078/05 05 23
- Mail : helpdesk@dgz.be