



Rochester Veterinary Practice, 72 Lowry Street Rochester 3561, Phone (03) 54842255 admin@rochyvet.com.au

Mastitis Culturing at Rochester Veterinary Practice

Normally we send mastitis samples to be cultured at an external laboratory where the turnaround time is generally 72 hours or longer. Lately we have been offering in-house mastitis culturing. We can provide results in approximately 24 hours most of the time.

Recent research has shown that delaying treatment of cows with mild to moderate mastitis does not affect the outcome for that cow. Cows that are obviously unwell with mastitis should be treated immediately.

Milk samples from cows with mastitis need to be collected in a sterile manner to reduce the risk of contamination. They should be refrigerated or frozen if there is a delay between sampling the cow and dropping it off at the practice.

Between 10-40% of samples will have no growth. No growth results may be due to there being no bacteria present, not enough bacteria present to allow growth on culture plates or if there are antibiotics present in the milk sample.

Mastitis cultures carried out at the practice provide a result much sooner and so enable you to give the most appropriate treatment. It may also reduce the amount of antibiotics as some cases do not require treatment. Cows that are not sick and culture *E. coli* do not have better outcomes if they are treated with antibiotics.

We are unable to provide sensitivities to common antibiotics used to treat mastitis. If you require antibiotic sensitivities, we can send the sample to an external laboratory.