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Sample Collection Procedure

Materials:

Quart-sized ZipLoc™ freezer bags or WhirlPac™ bags
Disposable gloves (non-talced latex or the like)
Frozen gel packs (Blue Ice™ or similar)
Cooler

Black permanent marker
Bee Alert Sample Description Form and Pen

Tips:

Disposable gloves can be found at any hardware store. ZipLoc™ freezer bags can be found at the grocery store. Your local pharmacy or veterinarian receives shipments in disposable coolers; ask and you may be able to get shipping coolers for free. **Procedures:**

Sample Description and Order Form:

Before you leave to go out to the apiary, go to <http://www.beealert.info> and print a copy of the Bee Alert Sample Description Form for each sample you will be submitting. You will need one completed form for each bee sample you send.

In the apiary, assign each hive you intend to sample a number and permanently mark each hive with its number. You will mark each sample bag with the number of the hive from which the sample was taken.

Fill out a Sample Description Form for each bee sample using a pen with water resistant ink, and send the forms along with each sample shipment. On this form, you will also be asked to check boxes indicating the types of analysis that you would like to have done; that is, virus screening, pesticides, advanced procedures like PCR to identify specific pathogens, and crude protein.

Please, do not place the Sample Description Form inside the bag with the bees. We recommend that you send a copy of these forms along with the samples, and that you keep the originals for your records.

Sampling in the Beeyard:

Each sample bag should only contain bees, or wax, or pollen from a single hive. We can screen samples for viruses, Nosema, pesticides, and conduct other tests, as warranted. However, if you combine samples, we can't separate them or determine how variable and extensive any disease or problem is in your beeyards. We can always combine samples to reduce number of samples and costs, but we will want to be able to see whether colonies from the same apiary or bee operation are similar or dissimilar before deciding on the best course of action – and we will check with you before proceeding with any combining of samples.

Sample Collection Steps:

1. Wear disposable gloves to avoid contamination of the sample.
2. Change gloves between hives to avoid cross-contaminating samples.
3. Mark each sample bag with the hive number, location, sample type (e.g. bees, wax, pollen) and date, using a permanent marker. Use a black marker pen to label the sample bags, being sure to indicate type of bees (brood nest, honey super, forager) on the Sample Description Form.
4. Shake at least 60 bees into sample bag, press out excess air, and seal (That's approximately 1/4 of a pint size bag).
5. For wax, cut out a 2x2 inch or larger square from a brood or honey frame (indicate which type of frame on the Sample form).
6. For pollen, send pollen from comb (minimum of 30 cells) or pollen trap (2 tablespoons or more) (indicate which type of sample, in hive or hive trap, on the Sample form).
7. Then place the sample in cooler **UNDER** frozen Blue Ice™ gels or dry ice.
8. Refrigerate until shipped.

Important Shipping Instructions:

- DO NOT freeze sample, put in alcohol or any other solution (you will break up the pathogen).
- DO NOT use regular ice (it is likely to melt and contaminant the samples)
- Do not ship on Friday or over the weekend (you want to avoid samples sitting in a warehouse or truck for 2-3 days).
- Call before you ship to discuss your analysis needs and to give us a tracking number.
- Ship samples in insulated cooler with frozen ice gels by overnight delivery to:

Bee Alert Technology, Inc.

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