

WNV Surveillance 2006

Swabbing and blotting oral swabs
on FTA cards

FTA CARDS

- The **FTA**® card by Whatman Inc. is a convenient method of storing a nucleic acid specimen while inactivating pathogens thereby allowing the transport of the sample via standard US mail.
- The blotter card itself is contained in an outer paper cover appearing much like a paper matchbook.

Appropriate Samples

- Corvidae (Crows, Jays, Magpies)
 - Oral swabs blotted on FTA cards
- Non-Corvid birds (Hawks, Owls)
 - Whole bird for brain removal

Preparing to Sample

- Gloves should always be worn while handling dead birds.



Preparing to Sample

- Fill out the WNV surveillance submission form and note a bird identification number on it that will be recognizable to you.
- Place an FTA card on a clean surface and record the bird identification and submitter on the outside of the card.
- Open a packet containing a sterile swab.

Swabbing

1. **Grasp the plastic stick of the swab in one hand and open the beak of the bird with the other.**
2. **Insert the swab into the oral cavity and swab the top, sides and back of the mouth and throat.**



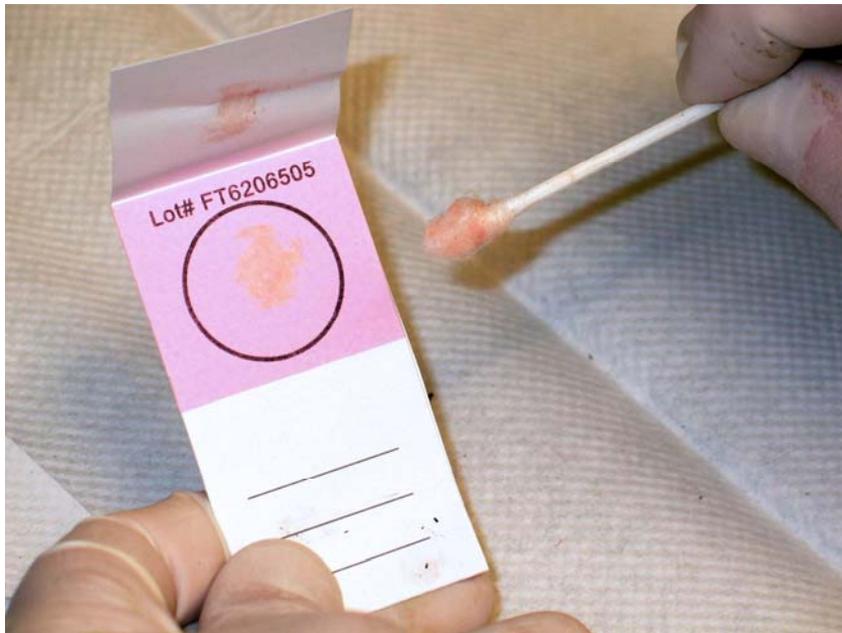
Blotting

- 1. Try to wet the swab with as much oral secretion as possible.**
- 2. Firmly press the swab onto the blotter paper and roll it back and forth in the center of the circle to transfer the oral secretion onto the blotter.**



Blotted Sample

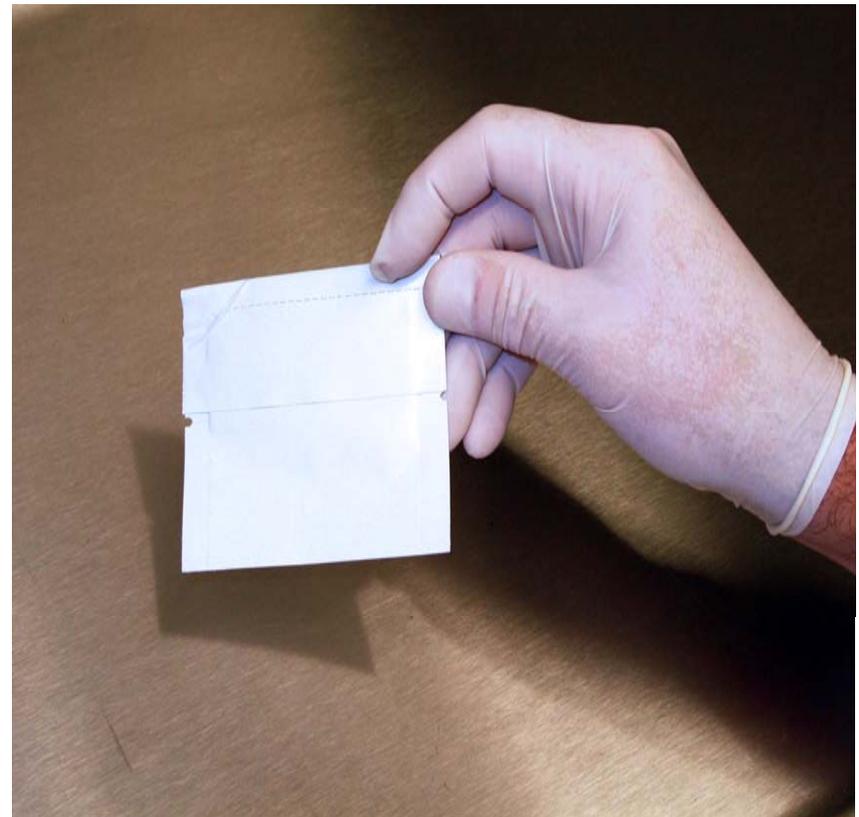
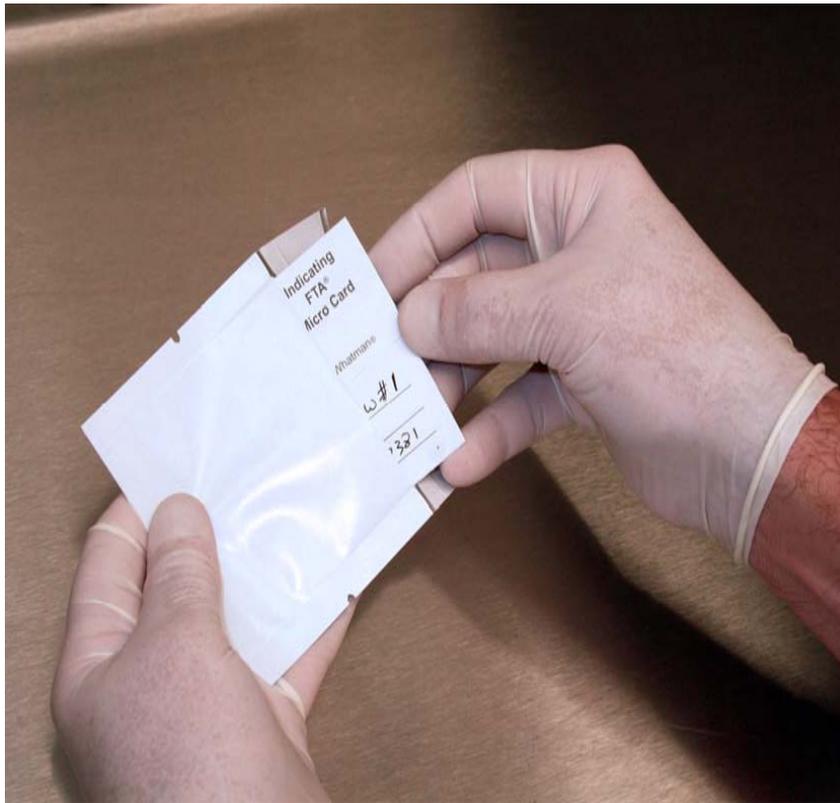
Blotted Sample



Air Dry 30-60 minutes

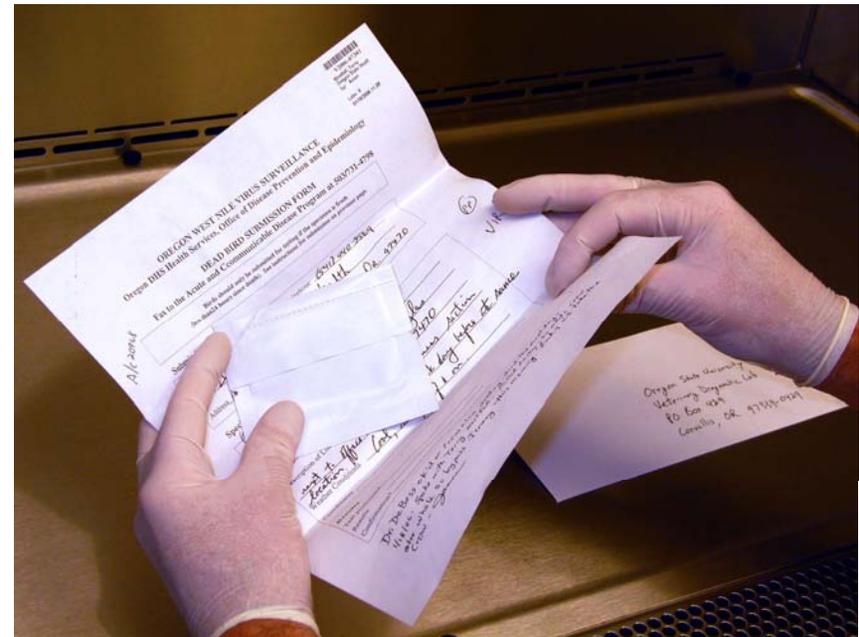


Place dry, labeled FTA card in foil transport envelope and seal

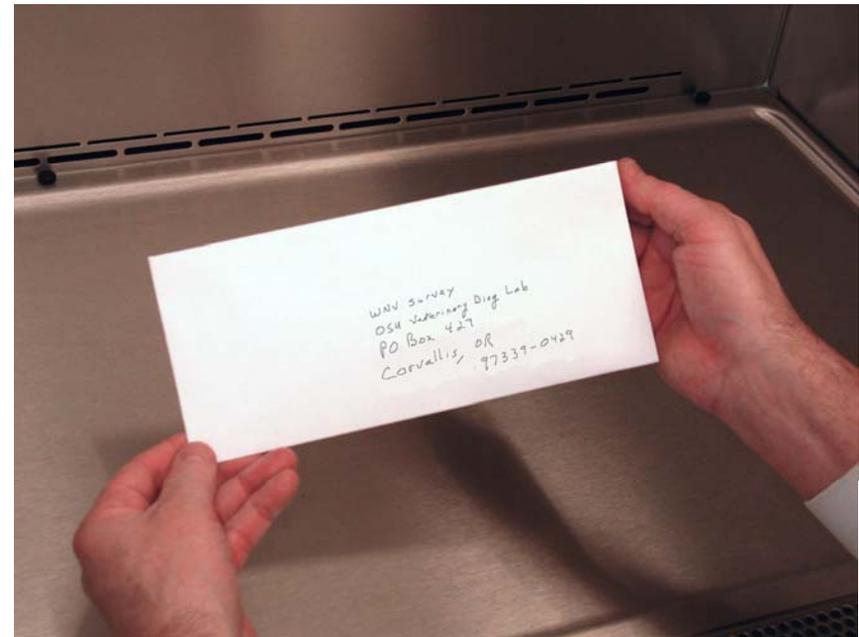


Preparing to Mail Specimen

- Label the foil pouch
- Place pouch into a folded Survey sheet.



Mail FTA card to OSU VDL by Standard US Mail



Send FTA Cards To:

WNV Survey

Oregon State University

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

PO Box 429

Corvallis, OR 97339-0429