

### **California Mastitis Test**

The California Mastitis Test is a simple, inexpensive, rapid screening test for mastitis. The test is based upon the amount of somatic cells present in the milk sample.

**Aim:** To determine the presence of subclinical mastitis

**Equipment:**

1. Milk sample
2. CMT Paddle
3. CMT solution



Note: The CMT solution consists of a detergent and a pH indicator (bromocresol purple). When combined with milk, the detergent and DNA of cell nuclei react to form a gel

**Procedure**

1. Take about 1 teaspoon (2 cc) milk from each quarter.
2. Add an equal amount of CMT solution to each cup in the paddle.
3. Rotate the CMT Paddle in a circular motion to thoroughly mix the contents. Do not mix more than 10 seconds.
4. Read the test quickly. Visible reaction disintegrates after about 20 seconds. The reaction is scored visually. The more gel formation, the higher the score



**Clean each teat with alcohol**



**Squirt a small amount of milk from each quarter into the appropriate quadrant of the paddle**



**Mix an equal ratio of reagent to milk**



**Read and record the results**