Canine DNA Sample Collection Procedure

Oral Bristle Swabs

Bristle swabs are used to collect cheek cells from the mouth. Two swabs are recommended per dog for robust DNA extraction.

Contact us to obtain sample collection supplies:

- **Canine swab collection kit** - $5.00
  - Includes two bristle swabs for sampling a single animal

- **Bristle swabs (bulk order)** - $1.00 each + shipping
  - Bulk order of bristle swabs is ideal for sampling an entire litter
  - 2 swabs necessary for each dog
  - Minimum order of 10 swabs

**Ship samples to:**
Neogen GeneSeek Operations
Attn: Samples
4131 N. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68504

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**Step 1**

- Remove food (or prevent nursing) 30 minutes prior to sampling.
- Write Animal ID on the outside of the swab wrapper. Animal ID must match the submission form.
- Each dog requires 2 swabs for robust DNA extraction. Wash hands between sampling multiple dogs.

**Step 2**

- Pull back loose ends of the swab sleeve about 1 inch (do not tear open the swab sleeve completely).
- Use plastic handle to pull swab out of packaging.

**Step 3**

- Lift lip and place bristles between the gum and cheek.
- Allow the lip to fall and place firm pressure on the outside of the muzzle while rolling the bristles between the cheek and gum for 15 seconds.

**Step 4**

- Allow the swab to air dry for 5 minutes. Do not allow bristles to touch any other surface.
- Return the swab (bristles first) into the original swab sleeve. The end of the paper sleeve can remain unsealed.
- If the opening in the swab sleeve is greater than 1 inch, tape the edges of the sleeve to protect the swab.
- Swab sleeves can be placed in an envelope with submission form to return to the lab.
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Blood

Blood tube submissions:
- Minimum of 1 mL whole blood is required in an EDTA (purple top) tube.
- Label each tube with the Animal ID. Animal ID must match the submission form.
- If extreme temperatures are expected (>30°C/85°F) please include a cold pack with the sample.

Blood card submissions:
- Blood cards are ideal for breeds of pups that undergo surgical procedures such as tail docking at a young age.
- Make sure that all instruments used in the surgical procedure as well as the sampling area are clean to avoid contamination.
- Fold back the top of the card and spot enough blood on the card to fill the black outlined circle.
- IMPORTANT - allow the blood to dry completely before closing the card.
- Label each card with the Animal ID. Animal ID must match the submission form.
- Contact us to order blood cards:
  ◆ Minimum order of 10 cards
  ◆ $0.50 each + shipping

Semen (+$10.00 surcharge)

- There is an additional $10.00 fee associated with submission of this sample type.
- There are 2 options for packaging samples to send to the lab:
  1. Send an entire semen straw.
     TIP: Placing the straw inside an empty ball point pen barrel helps to protect the straw during shipment.
  2. Send the required volume of sample (>0.1 mL) in a microcentrifuge tube.
     TIP: Wrapping the top of the tube with Parafilm or plastic wrap will help secure the cap.
- Typically, semen can be stored and shipped at ambient temperature, but if long shipping times or extreme temperatures are expected (>30°C or 85°F) please send a cold pack with the sample.

Note: The Neogen lab will NOT accept semen straws that have been cut or used for breeding due to the high risk of sample contamination and poor quality results.

Tissue (+$10.00 surcharge)

- There is an additional $10.00 fee associated with submission of this sample type.
- Ideal tissue samples include skin or liver tissue collected during a postmortem examination.
- A 1 cm x 1 cm piece of tissue (approximately the size of a pencil eraser) is all that is needed.
- Samples should be collected immediately post-mortem or from an animal that was refrigerated/frozen immediately after passing away to avoid bacterial contamination.
- Tissue samples should be frozen and shipped overnight to arrive at the lab during regular business hours Monday–Friday.

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