

Information on materials for sample submission

Genotek Swab (sponge)

This swab may be used for retrieving buccal swabs.

Species: Alpaca, Dog, Horse, Cattle, Sheep and Goat

Number of swabs per animal: 1

Please make sure that – if possible – the mouth is rinsed with water before sampling. After rinsing, optimally wait at least half an hour without eating and drinking before the sample is collected.

- ◆ Open the sample collection bag carefully.
- ◆ Remove the swab from the sample collection bag. Brush with the swab about 2 times on each inside of the cheeks of the animal.
- ◆ Unscrew and remove the cap from the tube. Do not pour out the liquid! Please leave it in the tube. Be careful no contact between the liquid content of the tube and your skin occurs. In case this accidentally happens, please rinse the skin surface thoroughly with water.
- ◆ Insert the flocked swab into the tube and close the tube tightly.
- ◆ Take one Genotek swab for each animal.
- ◆ Make sure to clearly identify the animal on the label of the tube. For correct receipt it needs to be clear which swab originates from which animal.
- ◆ Please submit the samples to the address listed on the **order confirmation** of our webshop or the address listed on the **sample submission form**. All samples must be accompanied with an order confirmation webshop or sample submission form.

Copan Swab (sponge)

This swab-type is only provided by VHL but can be processed by Certagen, too.

This swab may be used for retrieving buccal swabs.

Species: Cat, Dog

Number of swabs per animal: 1

Please make sure that – if possible – the mouth is rinsed with water before sampling. After rinsing, optimally wait one hour without eating and drinking before the sample is collected.

- ◆ Open the sample collection bag carefully.
- ◆ Remove the swab from the sample collection bag. Brush with the swab about 2 times on each inside of the cheeks of the animal.
- ◆ Unscrew and remove the cap from the tube. Do not pour out the liquid! Please leave it in the tube. Be careful no contact between the liquid content of the tube and your skin occurs. In case this accidentally happens, please rinse the skin surface thoroughly with water.
- ◆ Insert the flocked swab into the tube.
- ◆ Break the swab at the breaking point. Place the cap back on the tube and close tightly.
- ◆ Take one Copan swab for each animal.
- ◆ Make sure to clearly identify the animal on the label of the tube. For correct receipt it needs to be clear which swab originates from which animal.
- ◆ Please submit the samples to the address listed on the **order confirmation** of our webshop or the address listed on the **sample submission form**. All samples must be accompanied with an order confirmation webshop or sample submission form.

Hair

Hair roots may be used for DNA extraction, samples must not be cut!

Species: Cattle, Horse, Pigs

Number of roots per animal: 50

- ◆ Optimally, please use hair collection bags and labels provided by our lab.
- ◆ For each animal, use one bag. Never collect hair roots from different animals in one bag.
- ◆ Pull at least 50 hair roots from one animal. The hairs must be pulled because only the roots contain cells (and thus DNA). Hairs that are cut with scissors cannot be used.
- ◆ Close the hair collection bag after collection.
- ◆ It is of utmost importance to correctly identify the sample with the correct identification or registration number.

Tips and tricks for hair collection.

- ◆ Pull the hair with clean hands to prevent hairs sticking to your hands when collection samples from multiple animals.
- ◆ When difficult to pull, the hair roots can also be pulled with pliers. The pliers should be cleaned between sampling of more animals to prevent mixing of sample material.
- ◆ Hair in ears is usually clean and easy to reach.
- ◆ If hairs are pulled from a different location, try to clean this area from dirt and loose hairs to prevent mixing of hairs from more than one animal.
- ◆ Please check that roots are attached to the hairs. As a rule, roots look like little bulbs, hooks or change in pigmentation of the hair.
- ◆ Only pull dry hairs. Moisture may lead to failure of the DNA testing.

Feathers

Only freshly pulled feathers may be used for DNA testing.

Species: Birds

Number of feathers per bird: minimum 3, total length of 5-10 cm

- ◆ Optimally, please use hair collection bags and labels provided by our lab.
- ◆ For each bird, use one bag. Never collect feathers from different birds in one bag.
- ◆ Pull a few feathers from one bird, optimally 5 – 10 cm of total feather length is submitted. The feathers must be pulled fresh because otherwise they may not contain sufficient cells (and thus DNA). Feathers that are cut with scissors cannot be used.
- ◆ Close the collection bag after collection.
- ◆ It is of utmost importance to correctly identify the sample with the correct identification or registration number.

Blood

EDTA or Heparin blood may be submitted for DNA testing.

Species: All Species

Volume: 1 - 2 ml

- ◆ In most cases, blood samples must be collected via a veterinarian.
- ◆ Submission of 1 – 2 ml of blood per animal is sufficient.
- ◆ In most cases, the veterinarian has EDTA or Heparin tubes available.
- ◆ Blood may also be submitted on FTA paper.
- ◆ It is of utmost importance to correctly identify the sample with the correct identification or registration number.

Tissue

Tissue samples may be submitted for DNA extraction.

Species: all Species

Volume: the tissue should measure approximately 1 cm x 1 cm x 1 cm

- ◆ In some cases, tissue samples must be collected via a veterinarian. You need to decide yourself if a veterinarian is required.
- ◆ Submission of a small piece of tissue per animal is sufficient.
- ◆ Tissue can be collected in many locations, e.g. ears. Shipment should be done leak-proof.
- ◆ You may use commercial sampling systems for ear biopsies provided by ear tag manufacturers, for example Allflex or Caisley.
- ◆ It is of utmost importance to correctly identify the sample with the correct identification or registration number.

Semen

Semen samples may be submitted for DNA testing

Species: all Species

Volume: One straw per animal

- ◆ One semen straw per animal contains sufficient DNA.
- ◆ Semen may be transported at room temperature.
- ◆ The semen should be shipped in a leak-proof package.
- ◆ It is of utmost importance to correctly identify the sample with the correct identification or registration number