

GUIDELINE FOR COLLECTING TAIL HAIR SAMPLE FOR DNA TESTING

Items needed:

Hair Sample Envelope
(Write animal ID on envelope)

Test Application Form
(Obtain from UC-Davis VGL)

Comb/Brush
& Scissors

Tape
(To bundle the hairs)

COLLECT THE HAIR SAMPLE FROM THE END OF THE TAIL (TAIL SWITCH). THE HAIR ROOT FOLLICLES (HAIR BULBS) CONTAIN THE DNA. THE HAIR SAMPLE MUST BE PULLED OR PLUCKED OUT (NOT CUT) IN ORDER TO GET THE FOLLICLES ATTACHED WITH THE HAIRS.

Step 1: Clean the tail switch to remove any dirt or manure. Comb or brush the tail to untangle it and to remove any dead or matted hairs. Use the scissors to trim off extra long tail hair. If necessary, wash the tail clean and dry it completely before sampling. **The hair sample must be free of urine or manure.** Dirty samples will not be processed. Contamination will make the sample useless for DNA testing.

Step 2: Hold the end of the tail switch with one hand and grasp a small bundle of hairs (10 to 20 strands) around a finger of the other hand. Quickly pull upward, towards the tail head and pluck out the hairs. Inspect the hairs to ensure there are follicles attached. Place the hairs in a clean paper envelope and repeat the process to obtain more hairs. Place the follicle ends together (on the same end). Do not touch the follicles.

Step 3: Repeat Step 2 until you have obtained approximately 40-60 hair roots. Gather the strands and pinch together in the middle to make a hair bundle. Secure the hair bundle with a piece of tape wrapped approximately 1-inch down from the follicle ends. Trim off the excess hair length on the opposite end of the bundle. A properly prepared hair sample bundle should look like this:



Step 4: Tape the hair sample bundle onto the UC-Davis VGL test application form, at the bottom of the form, and fold the form as indicated, to protect the sample and have the bar code ID visible. Place into a legal size envelope and mail to:

Veterinary Genetics Laboratory
PO Box 1102
Davis, CA 95617-1102

Step 5: As a back-up and/or for future use, put a spare tail hair sample bundle, into a plain paper envelope marked with the animal's registered name, ear tag or tattoo ID, and date of birth. Store the sample envelope in a sleeve protector that is open at the top, along with the animal's pedigree certificate and other records. Keep all samples and records in a temperature/humidity controlled room (a room inside the house) for long term storage.