

Blood Sample Collection and Shipping Procedures

Unclotted Blood Sample Collection:

1. Use a new, sterile 3 ml or larger syringe and needle (18 – 22 gauge) to collect 1-2 mls of blood from the dog being tested.
 2. IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER the blood to a lavender (purple) top tube (EDTA anti-coagulant), 2 ml size or larger.
 3. INVERT THE TUBE several times to prevent clotting. DNA cannot be extracted from clotted blood.
 4. Label the tube with the dog's registered name and place the tube in a sealable (ziplock) plastic bag.
 5. Insert 2 folded paper towels into the bag with the tube and seal the bag securely.
 6. Please fill out the questionnaire and place it and a copy of your dog's pedigree in the package outside of the ziplock bag.
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Shipping:

1. It is preferable that blood samples be shipped immediately.
2. Samples may be shipped at ambient temperature (no refrigeration or ice necessary) if shipped immediately.
3. Wrap the bag in cushioning wrap (e.g. bubble wrap) and then place it in a sturdy box or tube, packed so that the blood tube doesn't move around.
4. Usually it is not necessary to ship the sample by an overnight service within the US. The sample can be shipped US First Class or Priority Mail or by any other 2-3 day service provided that the sample won't arrive on the weekend or a holiday. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, you can obtain a free box marked for Priority Mail (8.5 x 5 x 1.5 inches) at your post office that is ideal for this shipment. If you use FED EX, they require the outer rigid package be at least 7 x 4 x 2 inches in size. If it is smaller, it must be inserted into a plastic "Diagnostic Specimen Envelope" provided by them.
5. Address to:

Angela Hughes DVM
Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

Storage:

Do not freeze the sample at any time. Refrigeration (for no longer than 5 days) is recommended if the sample will not be shipped on the day that it is collected.