

COLLECTING A DNA SAMPLE USING THE “SWAB” METHOD

PREPARING YOURSELF AND YOUR DOG(S) FOR DNA COLLECTION:

1. Isolate the dog to be sampled from other dogs, toys, chews and other possible sources of oral contamination for at least one hour prior to sampling. Do not allow the dog to eat or drink during this time.
2. The handler should avoid touching the inside of the dog’s mouth. Wearing disposable gloves will help reduce contamination.
3. If more than one dog is being sampled, the handler should wash hands or change gloves after each collection.
4. Never allow the sterile swab tip to touch anything except the original package, the inside of the dog’s mouth and the swab return envelope.
5. Filling out the swab envelope prior to collection is a good idea and will help eliminate labeling errors when sampling more than one dog.

COLLECTING THE SAMPLE:

1. Use two (2) swabs per dog (one for each cheek).
2. Open the swab package at the handle end (NOT the collection tip end). Carefully peel back the package about half way. Remove the first swab without touching the tip.
3. While holding the handle of the swab, insert the tip along the inside of the cheek and rotate for at least 20 seconds. Gently push against the gum and cheek with the swab to enhance cell collection.
4. Hold the swab while it air dries completely (at least 20 seconds). DO NOT blow on the swab.
5. Place the swab directly into the prepared swab envelope (if you are collecting from more than one dog, verify that the dog name on the envelope matches the dog you are collecting). Repeat procedure with the second swab on the opposite cheek.

PACKAGING & SENDING YOUR SWABS TO GENE CHECK, INC:

Do not freeze or store the samples in the refrigerator where condensation can occur. Ice packs should not be used for shipping cheek swab samples.

Place the swab envelope(s) into a sturdy mailing envelope or box (not a regular letter envelope).

Because the package contains something rigid, it will be considered a package not a letter (even though it may not weigh more than a letter). Therefore, it will be charged at a higher postage rate. You can use stamps, but you will need to make sure you have enough postage. We suggest checking with your local USPS office.

Mail the swabs to Gene Check Inc. along with a submission form and payment. We highly recommend obtaining a tracking number from your shipper.

Feel free to call or email Gene Check if you have any questions.

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