

## Collection instructions – buccal swab

Collection of buccal swab samples is the most critical step in obtaining the best possible sample for DNA testing. It is very important that you follow these simple instructions to avoid sample contamination with foreign DNA and other contaminants. This will help to minimize the possibility of failed testing due to inadequate sampling.

We strongly recommend reading the collection instructions prior to swabbing your animal.

### Preparations

1. Several hours prior to swabbing, the animal should be isolated from toys or other objects that are shared by multiple animals as they present potential source of contamination. Inspect the animal's mouth to ensure there are no food particles or other material and rinse animal's mouth if needed. Do not provide food for at least one hour before sampling.
2. Be careful to avoid touching the inside of the animal's mouth with your own hands. You can use latex gloves when swabbing (optional, not provided).
3. When sampling multiple animals, first finish completely the sample collection from the first animal before you continue with the next one. Wash hands between animals or change your gloves if you are using them.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Once a swab has been removed from its sterile packaging, do not touch anything with the tip of the swab other than the inside of the animal's mouth.
5. **ADVICE:** If possible, offspring (puppies, kittens, foals) should be weaned prior to obtaining samples due to potential contamination from the mother's cells. If the offspring have not been weaned, separate them from the mother and each other for at least two hours prior to swabbing and rinse their mouth with water. Do not provide them food, but do provide plenty of water to drink.
6. Be prepared to ship the samples on the same day that you collected the samples.

### NOT TO DO

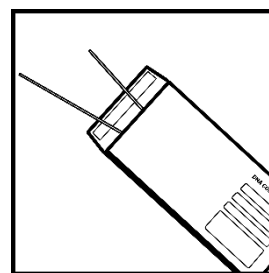
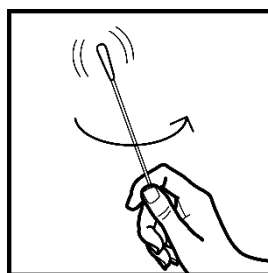
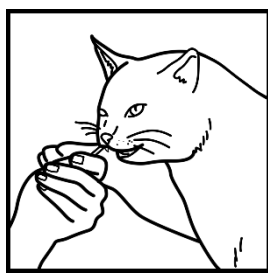


### TO DO



## Sampling

1. Use two collection swabs for each animal, one for each cheek.
2. Open the swab and remove it from its protective packaging, being careful not to let anything touch the tip of the swab.
3. Insert the swab between the animal's cheek and gum. Rotate the swab for at least 30 seconds. While rotating use your other hand to gently pressure the outside of the cheek to collect more buccal mucosa cells that contain DNA. Saliva is not desirable sample as it contains very little cells.
4. Air dry the brush for approximately 15-20 minutes until completely dry. You can swing the swab gently but do not blow into it!
5. Insert the swab directly into enclosed envelope, labelled DNA COLLECTION KIT. Do not put the swab back into its packaging!
6. Repeat steps 2 to 5 with the second swab on the other cheek. Insert the second swab into the same envelope
7. Seal the envelope and fill out the information on the outside of the envelope.
8. Samples should be stored at 4°C until shipping. Note that the testing is more successful if the sample is fresh.



**IMPORTANT:** Swabs should be dry and put directly into the envelope to minimize bacterial contamination and DNA degradation (these things occur if incompletely dry swab is put back into its packaging).

## Sending the sample

9. **Only for non-webshop orders:** Download the Order form by going to download section on our website. Fill in the form electronically or manually, print and sign the form. If you are filling the form manually, make sure that all the information is written clearly.
10. Insert signed Order form, Veterinary verification form (optional) and envelope with collection swabs into new envelope and send it to our address:

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