

Instructions for taking a DNA sample for genetic analysis using a buccal swab

To test an animal for genetic diseases, DNA from the cells of the animal are needed. A simple and useful source of DNA is a buccal swab. Many acceptable types of swabs are available, either in the form of a small brush or a cotton swab. See photos of these two examples below.

Note: For genetic disease DNA analyses, a brush-tipped swab takes a better DNA sample and can be found wherever dental products are sold.

Note: For the Paternity DNA test, a sample taken with a cotton swab is required (at least 4 per animal).

A brush-tipped swab

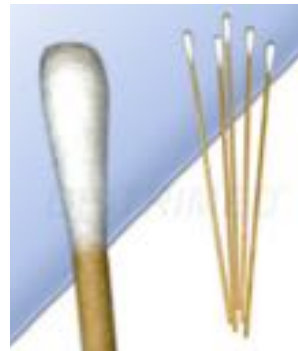
GUM® Proxabrush® Go-Betweens® Cleaners **Wide**



For brush-tipped swabs:
- use 2 brushes for 1 test
- add 1 brush for each additional test.

A cotton-tipped swab

A Q-tips® with one end cut off



For cotton-tipped swabs:
- use 4 swabs for 1 test
- add 2 swabs for each additional test.

- For each animal, label a paper envelope with:
 - the date the sample was taken
 - the animal's name or identification
 - the owner's name
- Wash your hands before taking the sample and also before taking a sample from another animal.
- To avoid contaminating the swab with food particles, it is best to wait at least 30 minutes after the animal has eaten before taking the sample. You can take samples from puppies / kittens as soon as you can identify the individual animal. Wait at least 30 minutes after the puppy / kitten has nursed.
- Collect the sample by rubbing and rotating the swab on the inside of the animal's cheek for about 20 seconds. If you find that the animal's mouth is dry, show it a treat to stimulate salivation.
- With the next swab, take a sample from the other cheek. Repeat with the remaining swabs as needed. For a puppy / kitten, you don't have to take samples all at the same time; you can take them over a period of several hours or even several days.
- Let the swabs dry out for 10 to 15 minutes at room temperature.
- Insert the swabs into the paper envelope identified for the animal and seal it. Do not put the swabs in a plastic bag like a Ziploc®.
- In a shipping envelope, place:
 - the paper envelope(s) containing the buccal swabs
 - the completed Submission Form(s) indicating which tests are requested
 - the completed credit card information form
- Send the shipping envelope by regular mail or express mail to the address at the top of this page.
- Give your animal that treat you used in step 4.