

Instructions for taking a DNA sample
for genetic analysis
using a feather sample

To test an animal for genetic diseases, DNA from the cells of the animal are needed.
A feather sample can be a good source of DNA.

Note: For bird sexing and species identification, a blood sample is preferable.

1. For each bird, label a paper envelope with:
 - the date the sample was taken
 - the bird's name or identification
 - the owner's name
2. If you have more than one bird to have analysed, be careful to keep the samples well separated and well identified.
3. The feathers must be freshly plucked and not picked up from the bottom of a cage.
4. It is important that the base of the feather is present and that the feather has not been broken.
5. Do not wear powdered gloves during sampling.
6. Choose a group of 5 or 6 small to medium-sized feathers from the back, chest area or back of the neck of the bird. Do not take the large feathers of the wings or tail.
7. Pluck one feather at a time. For very small feathers, use tweezers.
8. Insert the feathers in the labelled paper envelope and seal it.
9. In a shipping envelope, place:
 - the paper envelope(s) containing the feathers
 - the completed Submission Form(s) indicating which tests are requested
 - the completed credit card information form
10. Send the shipping envelope by regular mail or express mail to the address at the top of this page.

