

CHEEK SWAB SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Preparation - Prior to Collection

- Please note: cheek swabs should NOT be submitted from un-weaned puppies.
- The dog to be sampled should not eat for at least *one hour* prior to having the sample collected. This is to reduce the chance of contamination.
- Just prior to sampling, check the dog's mouth to see that no food or other material is obviously present. If there is, clean/rinse the dog's mouth to remove it.
- The person taking the samples should avoid touching the inside of the dog's mouth.
- If more than one dog is being sampled, the person doing the collections must wash hands or change gloves between collections.
- Never allow the sterile swab to touch anything except the inside of the dog's mouth or the inside of the package that it came in. Especially never allow contact between swabs from different dogs.
- Prepare a clean surface on which to place the opened swab package while you are swabbing the dog.

Collection Instructions

1. Use 2 swabs per dog.
2. Label the envelope with the dog's call name, the owner's last name.
3. Hold the swab by the handle end. Do not touch the collection tip of the swab. Do not allow the tip of the swab to touch anything other than the inside of the dog's mouth and the inside of the packaging.
4. While holding the handle end of the swab, insert the tip along the inside of the cheek. Rotate the collection tip along the inside of the cheek for **10 seconds**. Push the outside of the dog's cheek while rotating the swab and firmly press the swab between the gum and cheek to enhance cell collection.
5. Hold the swab while it air dries for 10 seconds. Do NOT blow on the swab.
6. Reinsert the swab into the envelope and repeat with the second swab.
7. Seal the envelope and place it within a larger mailing envelope. Do NOT put the submission form in the envelope with the swabs.
10. Send the sample following the packaging instructions below.

Payment, Packing, and Shipping

Payment: Enclose a check made payable to "Regents of the University of Minnesota". The fee is \$65 per dog.

A major concern in using cheek swabs is the possibility of microbial growth on the swab after the sample has been collected. This is particularly a problem during hot and humid times of the year. To reduce the chance for contamination, do NOT store the swabs (used or unused) in sealed plastic bags. Do not freeze them or store them in the refrigerator where condensation can more easily occur. Ice packs should NOT be used for shipping cheek swab samples. Be prepared to ship the cheek swab sample as soon as possible after it is collected.

By following the instructions you will have placed each set of the air-dried swabs in labeled, clean paper envelopes. Place these labeled envelopes into a sturdy mailing envelope or box. Send this package to:

**University of Minnesota
c/o Katie Minor
295 AS/VM
1988 Fitch Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108**

You may purchase appropriate cheek swabs (also called Sterile Applicators) at certain pharmacies, especially specialty pharmacies and medical supply stores that carry home health care products. You may also order them online from a variety of vendors, such as:

www.amazon.com

www.ezswabs.com

www.walgreens.com