

ASCA[®] CHEEK BRUSH DNA COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Read all instructions to the end before you begin.

****It is important to get cheek or gum cells on the brush not JUST saliva****

Fill out the DNA SAMPLE SUBMISSION FORM included with your brush kit. Write legibly and include a copy of your dog's ASCA registration papers when you send the sample to the Lab.

You will receive two swabs for each dog. Please do not begin the 2nd swab until the first is sealed back in the package it came from. **Be sure to label both tubes before you begin.** If you are sampling more than one dog, please wash your hands in between dogs.

It is **IMPORTANT THAT FOOD PARTICLES ARE NOT INCLUDED** with the cheek and gum cells sampled from the mouth. **It is important to get cheek or gum cells on the brush not JUST saliva.** Sample dogs when no food particles are present in the mouth. In the morning before eating is ideal. Otherwise, wait for at least 30 minutes after eating for the food particles to clear out of the mouth.

Do not swab nursing puppies because they will most likely have their dam's DNA (from her milk) in their mouth. Please have your dog's DNA done at least 6 weeks before you need it.

1. Label the paper backing of each brush package with the dog's registration number or full registered name. If only submitting one dog, you may just put your return address label on the paper backing. You may just use a business size envelope for the swabs.
2. Remove the brush from the package being careful not to allow the brush end to come into contact with anything (including your fingers).
3. Hold the brush handle between your thumb and forefinger. Roll the inner surface of the upper lip to the outside by inserting a finger in the corner of the mouth and pulling the lip upwards.
4. Place the bristles of the brush on the inner surface of the lip.
5. Release the lip, leaving the brush inside the mouth and steady the dog's muzzle by circling the nose with one hand, gently keeping the dog's mouth closed.
6. Move the brush back and forth for a short distance in the space between the lip and gum, twirling the brush around with your thumb and forefinger as it is moved back and forth. **The side bristles need to be brushing the surface of the gums and the inner side of the lip.** You should be using the same amount of pressure you would use to brush your teeth.
7. **For maximum DNA collection rub for 45 seconds to 1 minute (about 50 back and forth motions) and increase the area of collection. Do not soak in the dog's saliva as that will wash the DNA away.**
8. When finished with that brush; place the brush standing up in a container to air dry for 5 minutes being sure not to let the brush end touch any surface.
9. Repeat the sampling on the other side of the mouth using the remaining brush.
10. Place the brushes back in their packages or in a plain white envelope to return them to Therion.

TIPS:

A few swipes will not get enough cheek cells to receive any results. Be sure to brush long enough. A used brush should look different than the unused brush. You may see pigment if the dog has pigmented gums or you may see a slight film on the bristles.

SEND SWAB KIT BY REGULAR MAIL TO:
THERION INTERNATIONAL, LLC
109 CAROLINE ST., 1ST FLOOR
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

THE ENVELOPE WILL BE NON-MACHINABLE – IT WILL REQUIRE MORE POSTAGE THAN REGULAR FIRST CLASS

Store at room temperature and mail as soon after collection as possible. If sending samples for multiple dogs, place the brushes for each dog in its own business size envelope with the paperwork for that dog, then place all the envelopes in a larger envelope for mailing.

If you would like to know that the lab received your kit(s), please SEND RETURN RECEIPT.
DO NOT CALL THE LAB. Any questions? Contact ASCA at 979.778.1082