

About Hair Sampling for DNA-based Testing

Obtaining sufficient, high-quality sample is an important first step in DNA testing. Insufficient or poor-quality samples can delay testing and therefore delays the animal's registration process. By following these guidelines, you can better ensure a quality sample and therefore a successful DNA test the first time around.

Hair sampling is a good alternative to blood samples, as the collection procedure is less invasive. Hair samples can be stored long-term if kept in cool, dry conditions. The most important point is that hair must be **PULLED** from the skin, this is because the DNA is stored in the hair follicles; the root bulb tissue at the end of the shaft.

Do not cut the hair. Do not use recently shed hair.

Please ensure each sample is labelled correctly (**one sample per sample envelope/bag**), as you are responsible for the accuracy of your sample and test submission. Once samples are collected, submit your testing order using our online submission site: <https://epagsc.myshopify.com>

Checklist for getting a good sample

- Have your collection kits and pen on-hand. Alternatively you can use clean paper envelopes or plastic zip-lock bags. You can tape hair to paper or collection cards. Make sure you tape over the hair shaft, not the root ends.
- Make sure you've washed your hands or use alcohol sanitiser or wipes immediately prior to pulling hair. Or use gloves. This helps to prevent cross-contamination of DNA between animals, and contamination of the sample. Ideally you should change your gloves or sanitise/wash your hands before moving on to sample another animal.
- It may be easier to use a pair of long-nose or bent-nose pliers or large tweezers to grip the hair. If using tools make sure you wipe it clean before sampling another animal.
- A video demonstration is available here: <https://youtu.be/RL9I52b1J30>



Submissions from outside of New Zealand:

Please attach our "PERMIT TO IMPORT RESTRICTED BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS" to the outside of your package. Contact us if you require a copy.

Hair Pull Instructions

1. Ensure the area is clean and dry. Comb/brush off any visible debris.
2. Grasp a small tuft of hairs as close to the skin as possible and
3. Remove hairs by peeling away from the skin, against the direction of hair growth. **Do not touch the bulb ends**; if you touch them it will introduce contaminants.
4. Place the obtained tuft into the collection bag and start again. Always take at least **TWO** pulls.
A good sample has at least 30-50 hairs, as pictured below.
5. Immediately place hair into sample envelope or bag. Alternatively, tape shafts to collection card/piece of paper. If taping hair, ensure the follicles/root bulbs are left uncovered. Label sample with ID details.
6. Wipe hands (and tools) with alcohol sanitiser or change gloves before moving on to sample the next animal.
7. Make sure hair sample bags and envelopes are labelled correctly; you are responsible for ensuring the sample matches the animal, **one sample per sample envelope/bag**.
8. Do not send samples until you have made your online test request and obtained an Order Number for your required testing.

This is the right amount of hair sample required. Usually, two (2) pulls will produce this amount and should provide enough root bulbs with plenty of DNA for testing.

