

## How To Take A Canine Cheek Swab

**Thank you** for agreeing to take a cheek swab from your dog. This sample is very valuable to us so we appreciate you taking the time to swab your dog.

Please follow these instructions:

1. The swab should be taken at least an hour after your dog has eaten, so wait a little while if necessary.
2. Taking the swab
  - We have provided you with a copy of the swab instructions as designed for humans, here are same instructions with a few hints and tips to taking a swab from your dog:
    1. Carefully open the swab packet from one end – take care not to drop the cap on the floor, if possible leave the cap in the packet until you need to cap the tube
    2. Take the swab from the tube – be careful not to touch the white swab head
    3. Insert the swab into your dog's mouth and rub firmly against their cheek for 1 minute
      - we find the easiest way to do this is to lift their lip up and rub firmly
      - some dogs may require one person to hold their head still (it is difficult to take the swab properly when the dog is moving around!) and another to take the swab
      - if your dog is particularly unwilling to stay still for their swab rub as firmly as possible for as long as possible
    4. Put the swab back into the tube, still without touching the swab head
    5. There is a groove in the swab handle, snap the handle off here, allowing the swab head to fall into the tube
    6. Seal the tube securely with the cap provided
    7. Give your dog a big fuss/treat!
3. Label the sealable bag provided with your dog's name and the date you took the swab and place the sealed swab tube in here.
4. Read and sign the consent form
5. Fill in as many details as you have on the sample information form – the more information we have the better. If your dog has been heart tested clear please indicate this in the **diagnosis** section.
6. Place the labelled bagged swab, consent form and sample information form in the pre-addressed envelope. Put a stamp on the envelope in a post box as soon as possible.

Many Thanks,

Maura Lyons, Professor Mark Dunning, and the Genetics Team