

How to Bank Your Dog's DNA at the AHT

You may have the opportunity to have your dog's blood collected for the AHT at a National Specialty or at one of the regional FCR club meetings. But if this opportunity does not present itself, it is simple to send a sample on your own.

All that is required is 5 ml of blood (in an EDTA tube), which can be drawn during one of your regular visits to the vet. Surround the tube with absorbent material (e.g., tissue) and place in a crushproof container. Alternatively, the padded tube (surrounded in tissue) can be placed inside a leak-proof secondary container (such a larger plastic tube) and placed in a padded envelope for mailing. The blood sample can be shipped at room temperature to the address indicated on the form that follows this article. Please also include a 5-generation pedigree, copies of any health clearances, and - if your dog is ill - any pertinent pathology reports or a note from your vet indicating the diagnosis. Also, fill out the AHT Consent Form and send it along with the other paperwork.

Once your dog's DNA is banked, it is critical that you keep the information at the AHT up to date. New clearances should be sent, and the AHT should be informed of any changes in your dog's health. The importance of keeping information current cannot be stressed enough. Your dog's DNA will not be useful in studying a particular disease unless the researchers know for sure that the dog does or does not have that disease. To update information regarding your dog, use the Health Update Form available at this site.

For more information about banking DNA at the AHT, or for help organizing blood collection at a local club meeting, please contact Vicky Nickerson at seleya8@aol.com or call 781-837-1566.