



## Instructions for sending blood samples to the Ostrander lab

1. Obtain the services of a veterinarian or veterinary technician with experience in canine blood draw.
2. Prepare the skin surface for sterile draw using alcohol or other antiseptic wipe.
3. Fill each of the two tubes supplied with blood, minimizing the contact with air. The tubes contain a vacuum and will automatically draw blood from the syringe or butterfly assembly.
4. Do your best to draw and send blood that is truly red in color and not dark red-black or brown as the latter colors indicate that the red blood cells have started to lyse and release enzymes that degrade the DNA. Removal of the rubber cap increases the likelihood of hemolysis in the blood sample and should be avoided if possible.
5. Don't worry if you cannot fill the tubes completely. We prefer a minimum of 5mL but will make due with any amount you can manage.
6. Please label each tube with the following so that we can identify the sample:
  - **Dog's name**
  - **Breed**
  - **Sex**
  - **Owner's name**
7. Return the filled tubes to the mailer with proper cushioning for shipping.
8. Mail the samples and paperwork to the address listed below. You may send the containers using the United Postal Service or any other shipping company (i.e. FedEx, UPS, Airborne Express, etc.)  
**The Ostrander lab cannot pay for or reimburse shipping and veterinary bills.**
9. Blood samples do not need to be refrigerated. The anticoagulant in the tube will keep the sample preserved for up to a week at room temperature.
10. Please send an email to let us know when the samples are on the way to the lab.

dog\_genome@mail.nih.gov  
(301) 451-9390  
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Thank you so much for your participation,

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