

Instructions for submitting a sample for TNS testing to UNSW

1. Samples from any dog can now be reliably tested for TNS. This test is extremely reliable for identifying TNS carriers and can be used to confirm TNS in any new suspected cases. The disease is common in Border collies from Australian/NZ lines, Australian Working lines and ISDS lines.
2. For new samples from outside of Australia, send postal address for delivery of collection kit (takes 2 weeks). Indicate the number of samples to be tested. and whether FTA cards or buccal swabs are needed for collection.
3. Cost of testing for TNS is \$88 AUD. CL testing can be done on the same sample for a further \$55 AUD. Payment can be made by credit card (details to be sent with sample), by bank transfer (details available on request) or by cheque (to Univ NSW) in Australian dollars drawn on Australian bank.
4. Arrange for collection of sample where independent identification of animal can take place by microchip number or other, eg. vet or arranged collection with club officials.

Microchip numbers are used to confirm identity so results can be accepted by official lists and checked in cases of disputes. Testing can be done without microchips if the owners want the results for their own information. This could allow sampling at home.

5. Fill in available details on request form and consent form.
Forms available at <http://bordercolliehealth.com/DownloadableTNSforms.html>
If possible, send information on samples by email to a.wilton@unsw.edu.au.
Information needed for each animal is *Name, sire, dam, date of birth, registration No, Microchip number, owners name, email address* all in one line of a word or Excel file
.
6. Collect sample with independent identification of dog, if possible, eg by veterinarian
 - a. (International) 5 or 6 drops of blood on FTA card (available on request)
FTA cards are handy for long term storage and long distance shipping of samples.
Put only a small amount of blood on card, enough to wet it in several places.
Too much blood makes the card unusable and can lead to very poor results.
 - b. (Young pups or no veterinarian access) - buccal swab (available on request)
Buccal swabs are rubbed on inside of the mouth to get loose cells.
They may be preferred for very young pups or elderly dogs.
We use cytology brushes, like small nylon bottle brush.
Results can be poor if not enough DNA is collected.
(Cotton swabs can be used in an emergency)
 - c. (Local) - Blood in EDTA tube (~2 ml)
To mail non-infectious blood samples they need to be wrapped according to postal regulations.
It needs enough absorbant material (eg cotton wool) to absorb spills
and needs to be inside a 2nd leakproof container (eg screw cap plastic bottle)
and supported so it will not be crushed in transit.
DO NOT freeze blood samples before shipping (can refridgerate), ship at room temperature.
7. Label sample with animals name and microchip number or registration number.
8. Send samples with request form, consent form, pedigree, payment, by post to
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9. International samples must be accompanied by a copy of our import permit, and quote 'AQIS permit number IP07000632' on envelope.
Copy of permit at <http://bordercolliehealth.com/DownloadableTNSforms.html>
International samples need to have a declaration of the contents of the package.
International samples sent by courier (especially Fedex) will attract a \$37 import fee by customs and extensive delays which may be avoided if sent Airmail.
Samples from some locations, such as US, Canada, Europe (except UK, France, Italy) can require irradiation which costs \$42 and takes 4 weeks.
10. Courier address is different to mail address. See request form.
11. Results will generally be available 14 to 21 days after arrival of the sample.
Results will be notified by email in the first instance.
Sample with too much blood on the card or too little material on swab require additional processing a may take longer. A repeat sample may be requested if the sample supplied is of insufficient quality for testing.

Alan Wilton

10 July 2007

Example of declaration of contents for customs for international samples.
(Preferrably on your own letterhead)

DECLARATION OF CONTENTS

This package contains tissue/blood from dogs for DNA testing.
There are ___ samples from healthy dogs.

Contains no other animal derived material ie from livestock or poultry.

For laboratory research only at University of NSW.
Used to extracted DNA for *in vitro* laboratory tests.
Not for use in foodstuffs. Not for *in vivo* studies.
Samples will not come in contact with live animals at any stage.

Shipped by Name _____

Address _____

Signed _____

Date. _____