

Instructions for submitting a sample for TNS testing to UNSW

1. Samples from any dog can now be reliably tested for TNS. It is a mutation test that examines the mutation site directly. This test will identify TNS carriers and can be used to confirm TNS affected status in any suspected cases. TNS is common in Border collies from all lines both working dogs and show dogs from all countries.
2. For testing dogs 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. (not required in Aust.)
3. Cost of testing for TNS is \$88 AUD for blood samples or \$100 AUD for swabs. 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 in Australian dollars drawn on Australian bank.
4. For positive identification, arrange for collection of sample where independent identification of animal can take place by microchip number or tattoo, eg. veterinarian 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, owners address, 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 by one of the following methods
 - 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. (Local) - Blood in EDTA tube (~1 ml) can be sent easily within Australia and in emergencies from overseas.
To mail non-infectious blood samples they need to be wrapped according to postal regulations. It needs enough absorbent material (eg cotton wool) to absorb spills and needs to be inside a 2nd leak-proof container (eg screw cap plastic bottle) and supported so it will not be crushed in transit.
DO NOT freeze blood samples before shipping (can refrigerate), ship at room temperature.

- c. (Young pups) 1 drop on FTA card taken with pinprick. (Available on request)

Blood samples are much more reliable and easy to process than swabs.

One or two drops of blood can be taken from a prick to the skin eg ear.

Alcohol swabs to sterilize area, lancets to pierce skin and FTA card to collect extruded blood can be provided to do this at home or by the vet.

- d. (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 bottlebrush.

Results can be poor and require repeated testing, so charge is higher for swabs.

(Cotton swabs can be used in an emergency)

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
Alan Wilton
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Australia
9. International samples must be accompanied by a copy of our import permit, a *declaration of contents* and quote 'AQIS permit number IP07019671' on envelope.
Copy of permit at <http://bordercolliehealth.com/DownloadableTNSforms.html>
10. International samples sent by courier (especially Fedex or UPS) will attract a \$37 - \$76 import fee by customs and extensive delays, which can be avoided if sent Airmail. Declaration of contents is particularly important for these shipments.
11. Courier address is different to mail address.
12. 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

30 September 2008

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

DECLARATION OF CONTENTS

This package contains tissue/blood from dogs for *in vitro* use of DNA testing.
There are _____ samples from healthy dogs. (fill in _____ with number of samples)

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

For *in vitro* laboratory research only at University of NSW.
Used to extract 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. _____