

SHIP SAMPLE

Veterinary Appointment

Blood can be collected by your veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician and must be processed according to the instructions below. OptiGen does not supply a sampling kit, since your veterinarian will have the necessary supplies. Make an appointment to have a blood sample drawn early in the week to avoid shipping over the weekend. Inform the clinic in advance that the blood must be drawn into a small lavender (purple) topped vacutainer tube and that the blood **MUST** be unclotted.

Test Request Form

Complete the Test Request Form with all the required information on the dog to be tested. If more than one dog is being tested at the same time, complete a form for each dog even if they are from the same litter.

Both you and the responsible veterinary staff must sign the form affirming a match of the dog with the **PERMANENT ID# AND THE BLOOD SAMPLE**.

You may copy the completed form for your records.

UNCLOTTED Blood Sample

Supplies needed at clinic:

- 18 - 22 gauge hypodermic needles
- 3 ml or larger syringe. Syringe must be new, in original package, and never re-sterilized.
- Lavender (purple) top tube (EDTA anti-coagulant), 3 ml size or larger. If necessary, ACD yellow top tubes are acceptable substitutes.
- Sealable (ziplock) plastic bag to hold tube
- Two sticky labels marked with owner's name, dog's name and date – one affixed to the tube and one to the plastic bag

If blood is being collected from more than one dog, a new needle and syringe must be used for each dog. Each dog's blood sample must be put in its own labeled tube and labeled plastic bag. Be certain that each label corresponds to the correct sample.

COLLECT 1 – 3 ml of blood from the test dog.

IMMEDIATELY TRANSFER the blood to the anti-coagulant tube.

INVERT THE TUBE several times to prevent clotting. **Clotted blood cannot be used. Do NOT send clotted blood.** If necessary, a new blood sample should be collected. **Do NOT put tape over the cap of the blood tube.**

Put the labeled tube into the labeled plastic bag, **INSERT 2 FOLDED PAPER TOWELS**, and seal securely. Do not insert Test Request Form or check in this bag. Do not freeze the sample at any time. Refrigeration (for no longer than 5 days) is recommended if the sample will not be shipped on the day that it is collected.

FROZEN Semen Sample

~~OptiGen's genetic tests can be done on frozen semen samples. This is useful in special circumstances to determine the status of a deceased male. About 1/2 ml (one "straw") of sample is required for the testing. Please call or email to schedule testing on frozen semen and to obtain shipping instructions.~~

Packaging and Shipping Instructions [\(for warm weather instructions click here\)](#)

Be prepared to ship the sample the same day it is collected, if at all possible. Normally, it is NOT necessary to ship by an overnight service within the US. US Postal Service 1st Class or Priority Mail is adequate. Other two-three day delivery services are also suitable. However, schedule the shipment so that it will not arrive during a weekend or holiday period. The package carriers do not take responsibility for refrigerating blood samples when delivery to the laboratory is delayed or suspended during holiday periods.

~~Packaging materials must be leak proof and meet the general requirements of the US Postal Service and other carriers. Appropriate packaging requires:~~

- ~~• Blood tube inside a sealed plastic bag (or other sealed container).~~
- ~~• Absorbent material inside the plastic bag. Two paper towels are sufficient to soak up any potential leakage.~~
- ~~• Cushioning wrap—bubble wrap sheet is best—around the plastic bag. DO NOT use household insulation.~~
- ~~• Put in a sturdy rigid container, either box or tube, with enough cushioning inside to prevent movement of contents. If you use the U.S. Postal Service, you can obtain a free box marked for Priority Mail (8.5 x 5 x 1.5 inches) at your post office that is ideal for this purpose.~~

~~If you don't use the U.S. Postal Service, please be aware of some special requirements:~~

- ~~• Federal Express requires the outer rigid package be at least 7 x 4 x 2 inches in size. If it is smaller, it must be inserted into a plastic "Diagnostic Specimen Envelope" provided by them.~~
- ~~• UPS requires that a specific outer container be purchased with pre-marked label designating it a "Class 6.2" package. We understand these packages are not supplied by or through UPS, but your UPS station should be able to direct you to a source if you choose their service.~~
- ~~• Airborne requires the package be inserted into their green bag "lab pac." You should request one when you schedule a pick-up.~~
- ~~• Other—you must check requirements for any other delivery service.~~

~~**Enclose the application form and payment in the container. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard for confirmation that your sample arrived. Allow 7 days for return mail of postcard.**~~

~~**SHIP TO OPTIGEN:**~~

OptiGen, LLC
Cornell Business and Technology Park
767 Warren Road, Suite 300
Ithaca, New York 14850

Warm Weather Shipping Instructions

If the temperature at your location at the time of shipping is 80 degrees F or above, follow these additional instructions:

- Obtain 2 freezable ice packs, available in hardware, drugs and grocery stores. Freeze them overnight. **DO NOT SUBSTITUTE ICE CUBES OR DRY ICE.**
- Obtain a styrofoam box that fits into an outer box and is large enough to hold the frozen ice packs and the sample and toweling in a plastic bag and cushioning as needed.
- **DO NOT** freeze the sample before shipping. It will not freeze when packed as described here.
- Put the Test Request Form and check in a separate sealed plastic bag to keep them dry.
- Ship the package by overnight delivery service.

International Shipping - European customers may choose to use VHL or they may ship directly to OptiGen ([see below.](#))

Reports are usually ready 2-3 weeks **AFTER** DNA SAMPLES ARRIVE AT OPTIGEN. VHL ships samples to OptiGen at three week intervals.

VHL - Agent for European Customers - Instead of shipping to the United States, you can interact directly with the Dr. van Haeringen Laboratorium (VHL) in The Netherlands. VHL is expert in animal genetics, bloodtyping, DNA tests, parentage control, and hereditary disorders.

After following the "Ship Sample" instructions and completing the "Request Test" form, ship the paperwork and sample to VHL. Within Europe when shipping to VHL clients might first consider using regular mail from their normal postal service with a 48 hour delivery. VHL's shipping address:

VHL-Dr. van Haeringen Laboratorium b.v.
Agro Business Park 100
6708 Wageningen
The Netherlands
Phone: (0317) 416402
Fax: (0317) 426117
Email: info@vhlgenetics.com
Website: www.vhlgenetics.com

VHL will process the blood sample and forward the DNA preparation to OptiGen. OptiGen will do the DNA test and report the results to VHL. VHL will then send the report to you. VHL also will answer your questions about

testing.

~~**AEGRC - Agent for Customers in Australia and New Zealand**~~ - Instead of shipping to the United States, you can interact with The Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre (AEGRC), University of Queensland, St. Lucia. The AEGRC is expert in equine services and has expanded to include canine genetic services. Please visit their website at <http://www.aegrc.uq.edu.au>. Click on "Our Services" and then click on "Canine Services" for full details on submitting samples for OptiGen tests. A printable test request form is available on the AEGRC site. Do NOT use online ordering on OptiGen's website. Thank you.

~~**International Shipments Directly to OptiGen**~~ - International customers may send samples directly to OptiGen if they prefer, being careful to follow the international shipping requirements listed below:

US Customs requires that ALL international shipments have 2 written declarations specifying the contents of the package. One should be secured to the outside of the package & the other should be inserted inside the package. Please copy the following statements onto a piece of paper (just as it appears here) and make sure to sign and date this declaration.

~~**Regarding USDA Guidelines of Importation - #1102 Feline and Canine Material**~~

I understand that a USDA import permit is not required for this canine material since I can provide the following true statements:

- ~~1. The material in this shipment is canine (dog) blood.~~
- ~~2. This material does not contain any other animal derived material (ie. from livestock or poultry).~~
- ~~3. This material was NOT derived from cats and/or dogs which were inoculated with or exposed to any infectious agents of agricultural concern.~~

I declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:

Print Name:

Please contact OptiGen, LLC, the recipient, for more information at:
phone:(607)257-0301; fax:(607)257-0353

For more information on this please visit [the USDA webpage](#).

~~**Commercial Invoices**~~ are needed in some instances & an example can be found at <http://www.fedex.com/gb/tools/invoiceblank.html?link=4>

International Payment

Payments may be made by credit card - VISA or Mastercard only, or by a bank check in US dollars. DO NOT use EuroCheque, because they require special, time consuming processing and currency conversion by our bank for an additional fee. Your report would be delayed until processing was complete.

~~Enclose the application form and payment in the container. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard for confirmation that your sample arrived. Allow 7 days for return mail of postcard.~~

~~Address the package to:~~

~~OptiGen, LLC
Attn: Becky Iddings
Cornell Business and Technology Park
767 Warren Road, Suite 300
Ithaca, New York 14850~~

Test Results

Tests are run on a "first come-first served" basis. Depending on the number of samples being handled, the time for the completion of the test will vary. You will receive your report by mail, fax or email, as you selected on the Test Request Form. Results will not be given out by phone. Certificates for dogs that test genetically normal will be mailed to you. Test results will be reported to genetic registries only according to policy determined by each parent (breed)club. A mandatory genetic registry fee will be applied for some US breed clubs.

Thank you for following these instructions carefully. Visit our website at www.optigen.com!

Questions? **Email:** genetest@optigen.com | **Fax:** 607-257-0353 | **Phone:** 607-257-0301.