



## HAIR SAMPLING FOR DNA ANALYSIS

Hair follicle samples are excellent sources of DNA for routine genotyping and parentage verification. Collecting a good hair sample is vital to ensure accurate and timely results. The following are some guidelines that will assist taking the best possible sample.

1. Hair samples should be collected from the bottom switch end of the tail.
2. The hair should be as clean as possible and dry. If the switch is wet and soiled, a sample may be taken from the mid point of the tail, but it is more difficult to successfully pull the follicles of this shorter, softer hair.
3. Grasp around 20-40 hairs (about as thick as a pencil) using your hand or a pair of pliers. Pull the hair samples with a strong, sudden movement **upwards** so as to get a clean tuft of hair with follicles. Never cut the hair sample from the animal; the hair follicles are found at the end of the hair that is embedded into the tissue.
4. Examine the hair closely. Make sure the hair follicles are present on *at least* half the strands. Note that DNA is found only in the hair follicles and not in the hair itself. If sufficient follicles are not available, make a second attempt at pulling hair.
5. Please take care when moving from one sample to another, that hairs are not stuck to hands, pliers etc which could cross-contaminate your sample.
6. Place hair in the sample bag, seal it and complete the full animal details.
7. Samples may be stored in a cool, dark place. Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight.

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