

Procedure for Cheek Swab Collection

Three swab brushes are needed for each animal tested. To avoid contamination by food, do not feed the animal for a minimum of 2 hours before you collect the sample. If you are collecting from a puppy or kitten do not collect within 2 hours of nursing. If you plan to test more than one animal, remember to wash your hands in between them and submit each pair of brushes in separate bags.

Instructions:

1. Wash your hands before you collect the cheek swab sample.
2. Clearly label the envelopes that contain the cheek swab brushes with the following information: owner's last name, animal's name or ID and date of collection.
3. Open the end of the swab package that shows the word "peel" printed on it. Be careful not to touch the brush ends as you remove the swab.
4. You may need to gently restrain the animal by using one hand to loosely grip a handful of skin at the nape of the neck as well as one ear. This should give you a fair amount of control while collecting the sample. Another way to make the collection easier is to ask another person to assist you in holding the animal and positioning the head.
5. Insert the brush end horizontally between the animal's upper gums and the inside of the lips on one side of the mouth. Roll the brush for approximately 10 seconds (or at least 5 full rotations). Make sure the brush is in contact with the gum/inner cheek tissue and not just the saliva.
6. Return the brush to its original package. Let the brushes sit out for one hour to overnight and then tape the opened end of the package shut and place in a Ziploc™ bag.
7. Repeat the above steps for the other brush, collecting from the opposite side of the mouth from the previous collection.
8. Complete the required submission form for each animal and mail with the sample or complete the submission form on the website below.
9. The samples can be mailed by regular or express mail to the address below.

Contact & Shipping Information:

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