

Instructions for submitting a sample for ataxia research at UNSW

1. For new samples, obtain consent form from a.wilton@unsw.edu.au or WKC web site. If needed, arrange for catapult collection kit, FTA cards or buccal swabs for sample collection to be sent.
2. Cost: There is no charge to submit samples to the research. Donations to support the research are welcome and can be made to University of NSW through Dr Wilton.
3. Arrange for collection of sample at a veterinarian or at home
4. Collect sample options in preferred order:

- a. Blood in EDTA tube (~5 to 10 ml) gives a large amount of DNA useful for many tests needed for research. Preferred method from close relatives of ataxia cases. Requires a vet visit to have blood taken.

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 second leakproof container (eg screw cap plastic bottle) and supported so it will not be crushed in transit. DO NOT freeze blood before shipping (can refridgerate), ship at room temperature.

- b. Blood on Catapult card (available through Working Kelpie Council). Prick the dogs ear and collect small amount of blood on the Catapult card. Provides very useful sample for research

Catapult and FTA cards are handy for long term storage and long distance shipping of samples. Blood is dropped sparingly onto sample card, overloading destroys the DNA preservative.

- c. Blood on FTA card (available from Dr Wilton). For long term storage of blood at room temperature. Larger capacity to Catapult but similar material.

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- d. Buccal swab (available on request) or can use clean cotton buds

Buccal swabs are rubbed on inside of the mouth for 20 seconds to collect loose cells. May be preferred for very young pups or elderly dogs. Gives limited amount of DNA so not very useful for research, but can be used for testing when disease gene is identified.

5. Label sample with animals name and microchip number, registration number.
6. Send samples with consent forms and pedigree, information

by post to

Alan Wilton
School of Biotechnology
University of NSW 2052
Australia

7. International samples should be accompanied by a copy of our import permit, and/or quote 'AQIS permit IP07000632'.
8. Courier address is different to mail address.