

DNA SAMPLES

Your step by step guide to making DNA easy!

For many of our AHSA members, the thought of having to provide a DNA sample for their horse or foal is simply terrifying! We have attempted here to make the process simple and easy to follow so you can send off a high quality, correct sample every time. Remember that it is very important that your sample is free of contaminating material such as manure or grooming products and that the sample is dry. The process is really not hard so once you have ordered and received your official DNA Kit, just follow these simple instructions:

Every Purebred Arabian foal born after the 1st August 2005 must be able to be "Parent Verified" so must be DNA typed and obviously, so must its parents. This is also relevant for Exports and, in some cases, Arabian Derivatives. If you know that you are going to geld a colt, you may choose to do a "Hair Storage" instead of a full DNA to help keep costs down.

Each DNA kit contains a light blue card for DNA or a dark blue card for Hair Storage and a label, a plastic bag, a reply paid envelope and a list of instructions. The label has a unique number which corresponds to a specific horse.

STEP 1.

Check all details on your label are correct. If not, you will need to return the kit to the Society and have another kit issued with the correct information.



STEP 2.

Select at least 30 mane hairs, well forward of the withers or in the case of young foals, tail hairs.

Wrap the hairs around either your finger or a comb and as close as possible to the skin. Pull firmly and swiftly upward to ensure that the roots/follicles stay with the hair and the hair does not simply break off.



Please remember that you need to keep the sample dry and handle the hair as little as possible to avoid damage to the roots. It is most important that the roots are attached as if they are not, the sample is not acceptable. You cannot simply cut some mane, it must be pulled out!



STEP 3.

Place the hair strands on the front of the blue card included in your kit and make sure the follicles are on the right hand side and inside the space marked on the card. Secure the hair by sticking them down with the identification label as shown below.



If you would like to trim the excess length, make sure you trim the right end!

DO NOT TRIM THE ROOTS OR FOLLICLES!



STEP 4.

Insert the prepared sample card into the supplied plastic bag, ensuring that the special seal is closed firmly.

Please Note: Only ONE sample card may be placed in each plastic bag.



STEP 5.

Place the sealed sample bag into the reply paid envelope, which was supplied with your kit for the Laboratory in QLD if DNA and to the AHSA if Hair Storage, seal and post immediately. If you are sending multiple samples, the reply paid

envelope can hold several individually sealed plastic bags but please ensure each sample is in its own plastic bag.



The AHSA no longer requires a Veterinarian to collect the hair sample but Please Note that if your sample is done incorrectly, a Vet will be required to take the next sample. It's in your own best interests to get it right!!!

Samples for young foals should be taken from the tail as the hair follicles are not as developed as older horses.

The general rule of thumb is that you take approximately 30 hairs, however the quality of the sample is more important than the quantity.

Please also note that if the DNA is needed by another Society which requires the horse to be identified by a Veterinarian, you will need to notify the Arabian Horse Society to supply the relevant forms for identification and the sample would then be required to be taken by a Veterinarian.

If for any reason, you are going to keep a hair sample at home, please be aware that it must be stored in an air-tight bag in a DRY place. **DO NOT** put stored hair in your refrigerator or freezer as your sample will become contaminated and unusable. The safest place to store a hair sample in your home is usually a filing cabinet or similar, where it will be left undisturbed.

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, or how to obtain a DNA sample from your horse, please contact the AHSA on 02 4577 5366.

www.ahsa.asn.au