

The buccal swab collection method provides a simple, noninvasive alternative to a blood specimen for DNA testing.

What is a buccal swab and why is it used?

A buccal swab is used to collect DNA samples by stroking the inner facial cheek with swabs similar to cotton tipped applicator sticks. The buccal swab collection process is painless and noninvasive. Cells from the inner cheek will stick to the cotton swab. The swab samples are sent to Biofocus GmbH to perform the appropriate DNA test.

How is the buccal swab collection performed?

The collector will swab the inside of the cheek with pressure similar to brushing your teeth. Two swabs will be collected, one swab from each side of the cheek. Upon completion, the collector will ship the sample directly to Biofocus GmbH to perform the test.

Do not sample nursing pups. The mother's milk contains white blood cells that are present in the mouth of the suckling pups. Foreign DNA will give ambiguous results. Take the sample 30-60 min after suckling.

Write the cat's name and registration number on the plastic bag you have chosen for sending the samples.

DO NOT TOUCH THE BRUSH.

Grasp the swab's plastic handle and pull the swab out of the sleeve.

Steady the cat's head. Holding the swab half way down the applicator stick, gently rub and rotate the swab bristles head against the inside surface, between the cheek and the gums. Keep good contact with the surface while rubbing for at least 10 seconds (better too much than too little). Try not to rub too hard. This will cause the animal's mouth to bleed or cause discomfort. (press the swap similar like brushing your teeth)

DO NOT BLOW ON THE BRUSH.

Place the brush into the plastic package sleeve.

Repeat steps for the second brush. Choose a different location of the cheek area for DNA collection.

For another sampling of a different cat, repeat entire procedure.

Upon completion of all samplings for all available cats, complete the sample submission form.

Enclose forms and brush collections into a return addressed envelope to be returned by regular mail. Sampled swabs can be stored at room temperature before mailing.

Are buccal swabs as accurate as blood collection?

Yes. DNA cells are the same throughout the body, whether they are collected using a buccal swab or a blood specimen. DNA tests may be performed on buccal swabs using the same state-of-the-art DNA methods used on blood specimens.