Member Service

Correct DNA Submission

by **Laura Kouba**

With the American Hereford Association's (AHA) transition to a new DNA service provider, Weatherbys, it's important to ensure DNA samples are collected and submitted properly.

Samples, no matter the type (hair, semen straw, blood card or tissue sample unit [TSU]) must be attached to the individual DNA submission forms. This ensures the proper sample and test is completed for that animal. Sending your samples in any other way will lead to delayed processing time or even the samples being returned unprocessed.

DNA submission cautions

Avoid these pitfalls when submitting DNA samples to Weatherbys to ensure you receive the results in a timely manner.

- **Do not place your TSU(s) back into the small white box they came in.** Even if you've written next to the sample to identify which animal it is, this isn't the proper way to submit the sample. It is not the lab's job to match the correct sample with the correct form. This adds additional processing time to your sample along with the added opportunity for human error when someone (who isn't familiar with your animals/samples) must match the sample to the proper form.
- **Avoid putting the sample(s) in individual bags or envelopes and sending the submission form(s) separately** — even if you've labeled which animal's sample is in the bag or envelope. Again, the samples need to be attached to the submission form.
- **Hair samples should not be stored in sealed bags or envelopes.** If you are going to put a hair sample in a bag or envelope, be sure to leave it unsealed. *ANY* moisture getting into the bag or envelope before it's sealed could damage the hair sample, making it unable to be tested. Hair samples should always be kept at room temperature and where air can get to them.
- **Do not place a sample and form in an envelope or bag without also physically attaching the sample to the form.** The sample may fall out when the envelope is opened, and that can lead to potential sample mix-ups, contamination, missing samples, etc. — always attach the sample to the submission form.
- **Avoid sending multiple samples for the same animal/submission form.** Please only send one sample per submission form. For example, don't send both a hair sample and a blood card. Sending more than one for an animal causes confusion at the lab, and then the lab must stop and contact the AHA to figure out which one needs to be processed. Only *ONE* sample can be processed per submission form. If you are worried about one sample type failing versus the other, take multiple samples from the animal, but keep the "backup" samples; if the first sample fails, you have a backup to send in and try again.

Need a hand?

As always, if you have any questions about the DNA process (requesting tests, collecting samples, getting results, etc.) please don't hesitate to contact customer service via phone or email.

Having trouble navigating through MyHerd? Visit *Hereford.org/member-services* to view more than 20 tutorials that show you the ins and outs of MyHerd or contact AHA customer service at 816-842-3757. To sign up for MyHerd, email your member number to myherd@hereford.org. HW

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