

EQUINE PARENTAGE & ANIMAL GENETIC SERVICES CENTRE

Instructions for the taking of hair samples for DNA typing

Background

The required sample for DNA typing is mane or tail hair to be taken in accordance with the following instructions – DO NOT take blood samples for DNA typing, as the laboratory procedures have been standardised for the extraction of DNA from hair samples. Veterinarians submitting blood samples will be contacted and requested to provide hair samples.

Hair Sampling Instructions

When: Hair samples can be tested at any age. Contact your breed society as they may have specific requirements re timing of branding and registration.

Where From: Either mane or tail hairs are suitable – in some foals, mane hair may be very fine and likely to break in the pulling process – in these cases, tail hair may be more suitable.

How: When taking the hair sample **it is absolutely essential that most hairs have intact hair roots.** Thus hairs must be pulled out **NOT CUT.** Grasp a tuft of 20-30 hairs as close to the skin as possible (wrap around finger or comb) and pull evenly and slowly in a peeling motion away from the skin – samples obtained in this way should have at least half of the hairs with intact hair follicles – these can be seen as small bulbs. If tail hair is taken, some samples may require trimming to fit into the sample envelopes – **PLEASE** ensure the actual hair samples sent contains the hair roots

Despatch of samples to the laboratory

Hair samples are to be placed in the pre-printed envelopes (standard plain business 223 x 112mm) provided for TBs by NZTR, and for SBs by HRNZ. Other breeds follow your societies recommendations – always use a **paper** envelope, with the following basic identification information completed on the outside of the envelope (YOB, Dam, Sire, Sex and Brands, and if applicable bar code label for microchip inserted).

Hair samples can be kept in a cool dry place for up to one week prior to despatch to the laboratory. Send samples at least weekly by courier or fastpost. Please do not send the individual hair sample envelopes through the post.

Address to send samples:

**Dr J I Cahill
Equine Parentage & Animal Genetic Services Centre
Drysdale Drive
Massey University
Palmerston North**