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DNA BLOOD CARD INSTRUCTIONS

Please remember that the quality of the blood sample and DNA analysis is only as good as the procedure you use to obtain it. Care must be taken to insure that the proper animal information is on the label for the DNA Blood Card. You must also make certain that contamination does not take place from card to card. We encourage you to plan your blood drawing carefully, dealing with one alpaca at a time. Prior to beginning the procedure, prepare a clean flat surface for air drying DNA Blood Cards (not in direct heat of any kind, including sun light). It is vital that DNA Blood Cards, wet with blood, are allowed to air dry before closing the flap, and are not stacked or the testing surfaces allowed to touch one another.

NOTE: If there is not enough blood on the card or the blood is not of sampling quality, an additional card sample will be requested. If this test is for an alpaca that is already registered, you will be charged for another test.

Pre-Procedure Storage and Handling of the DNA Blood Cards

- Unused DNA Blood Cards can be stored at room temperature in a dry environment, such as in a file folder or manila envelope.
- Try to avoid contacting the DNA blood collection area with anything except the blood sample. If practical, wear surgical-type gloves (latex, vinyl, or nitrile) during the collection of the blood sample. A thorough hand washing is the next best procedure.
- Your testing packet consists of a self-contained DNA Blood Card. Older versions have an outer manila envelope.

Post-Procedure Handling and Shipping

1. After the card is completely dry, complete the information requested on the self contained DNA Blood Card or manila envelope. If your card has a manila envelope, place the DNA Blood Card inside when completely dry. Write the alpaca's registration number (the barcode number from the alpaca's original test) in the requested location. If you do not have a barcode contact the AOA office and they will send one to you. Do not place any additional information or items inside the manila envelope with the DNA Blood Card.
2. Regular mail is acceptable for DNA Blood Cards.

If you registered and paid online:

Mail your completed DNA Blood Card to:
Alpaca Owners Association, Inc.
8300 Cody Dr, Ste A
Lincoln, NE 68512

If you are registering via mail:

Mail your completed DNA Blood Card,
registration application, and payment in
U.S. funds to:
Alpaca Owners Association, Inc.
8300 Cody Dr, Ste A
Lincoln, NE 68512

NOTE:

1. If you are making the payment and would like to pay by credit card, you can download the Credit Card Authorization form at www.AlpacaAssociation.com, fill it out, and send it with your DNA Blood Card and registration application.
2. If you are mailing the DNA Blood Card from Canada or another non-U.S. location, visit our web site at www.AlpacaAssociation.com for a copy of the permit and mailing instructions.

REGISTRATION TIP: You should always keep a copy of your registration application and document the bar code number for future reference. The bar code number becomes that alpaca's registration number for the life of the alpaca. Have this number available any time you contact AOA with questions about this alpaca.

Drawing the Blood Sample

1. Prepare a DNA Blood Card for the alpaca by writing your account number and the alpaca's name in the space provided. **Do not** write on the inside of the card below the blood sample area.
2. Secure your alpaca for the process as you would for a vet call.
3. Select one of the following options for obtaining the blood
 - a. Locate a vein on the outer surface of the ear or the vein midline on the under surface of the tail.
 - b. Penetrate the ear with a sterile needle to drop the blood on a DNA Blood Card without the use of a syringe.
 - c. Penetrate the ear or an ear vein and aspirate the blood that emerges in a syringe.
 - d. Use the blood from the same blood draw used to collect a blood sample for IgG testing.

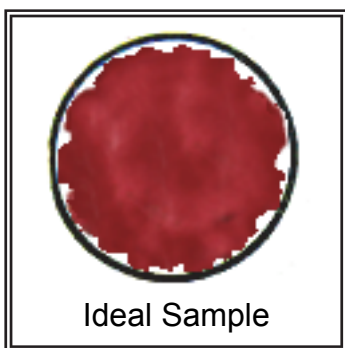


Back of Ears

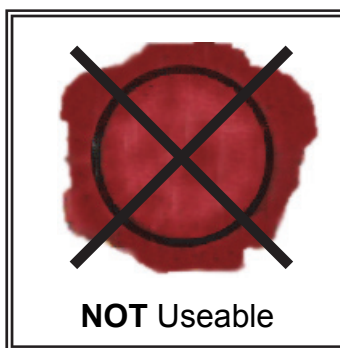


Backside

4. Clean the site with 99% alcohol and let it air dry.
5. Have the card at hand and right side up.
6. To avoid contamination, use a separate syringe and needle for each alpaca.
7. Place the needle in the vein or stab the ear.
8. While the needle is in the vein, draw the plunger back gently and fill the syringe with a blood sample OR suck up the blood that emerges from the vein or ear poke with a syringe.
9. Hold the DNA Blood Card topside up below the hollow needle and depress the syringe plunger to deposit the blood sample onto the sample collection area OR drop blood from the vein or ear stab onto the card. **Do not** allow the needle to touch the sample collection area.
10. Spot blood on. Please fill the circle as shown in the "Ideal Sample" below. This is especially important if you are also doing a BVDV test on the same card because BVDV tests take a larger sample. **Do not** flood the card as shown in the "NOT Useable" example.



Ideal Sample



NOT Useable

11. Apply pressure to the puncture site using a clean gauze pad or paper towel.
12. The DNA Blood Card **must be air dried** (not in direct heat of any kind, including sunlight) immediately after the blood sample is obtained. Air dry in a clean and dry environment prior to closing the flap and if an older card prior to placing the DNA Blood Card into the manila envelope.
13. Air drying will take at least an hour. **Do not dry in the sun or with any other heat-assisted drying activity. Never place the sample near or in a microwave.**