

Sampling & Dispatch of specimens

A blood sample can be obtained with the least effort from the jugular vein or vein on an animal's ear or tail.

Sampling Procedure

Whatever means of restraint is used it should cause minimal distress and should be quick and safe for both the animal and the person drawing the blood.

Blood can be collected from the jugular or ear vein in all ages of game and from the tail vein in older game.

Bleeding:

- Restrain the animal in the most convenient way.
- Raise any vein by applying pressure in the most accessible position.
- Insert the needle through the skin and into the vessel at about a 20 degree angle and withdraw the blood sample.
- Remove the needle and apply pressure to stop the bleeding.
- Blood should be injected into an EDTA blood tube (Lavender stopper). Immediately shake the tube well.

Collecting blood on Guthrie card:

- Restrain the animal with the head elevated and the ear conveniently located.
- Raise the ear vein by slightly bending the ear forward to expose the ear vein.
- Prick the ear vein using a needle and allow a good size drop of blood to collect.
- Blot the drop of blood using the Guthrie card and allow to dry well.
- Place Guthrie card in a labelled envelope for dispatch to testing laboratory.

Hair sampling:

- Remove any loose hair from the sample area
- Clean the sample area with a paper towel to remove excess dirt if necessary.
- Grasp hair close to skin and pull directly away from the skin (against the direction of growth).
- Obtain 20 or more hairs with roots (follicles). Excess hair will be stored.
DO NOT cut the hair, it must contain roots for DNA analysis.
DO NOT touch the follicles.
- Place the hair in a used or provided specimen envelope and seal the envelope.
Preferably DO NOT use plastic bags, because of condensation build up. Moisture may degrade the genetic material.
- Fill out the animal's information on the specimen envelope.
- Complete the request form.
- Ship specimen at room temperature to testing laboratory

For Guthrie cards, specimen envelopes and submission forms, please contact Unistel Medical Laboratories on 021-9389213 / email: info@unistelmedical.co.za or see: www.unistelanimalservices.co.za

Send samples by post or courier to:

**Unistel Medical Laboratories
Suite 13, Private Bag X22
Tygervalley
7536
South Africa**

Samples that have been correctly labelled and packed can also be dropped off in Pretoria at Dr Du Buisson & Partners (012 678 0514) located in 1171 Church Street, Pretoria or in Bloemfontein at PathCare (051 401 4600) located in the Medi Clinic Hospital, Ground Floor, Kellner Street, Westdene.

