Introduction to Genetic Testing

The DNA of any dog governs the appearance of the dog as well as being related to the general behavioral characteristics of the breed.

In recent years, there has been a great deal of research performed on how differences in DNA give rise to the differences that are seen between breeds.

Advances in DNA testing technology mean that it has become possible to identify the ancestry of any dog by performing a simple test using a cheek swab. The DNA required for the test to be run is isolated from cells that are trapped on the DNA ID Card. All cells carry the same genetic material, regardless of type or location in the animal. Taking a cheek swab is therefore the easiest way to obtain the samples needed for testing.

On receipt at the BioPet testing site the samples are prepared and analyzed, resulting in a rapid and accurate determination of the breeds that have contributed to the makeup of your dog.

We believe that 92% of the mixed breed dog population in the USA is covered by our validated breeds. It is possible for individual mixed-breed dogs to have inherited none, some, or all of the characteristics described. BioPet is not responsible for any inferences made about an individual dog based upon the provided information. BioPet’s test is based upon our database of validated breeds.

If your pet contains other breeds, it may give rise to the identification of breeds earlier in your pet’s history and may therefore provide a seemingly unlikely result.

Limited Warranty: BioPet warrants that it has the right to perform the testing procedure and database are designed to recognize that this can happen and minimize any affect. It is understood that no analytical test is 100% accurate.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I collect the DNA myself? Yes, the collection process is very simple and can be performed at home by following the enclosed instructions.

Does DNA collection hurt my pet? The DNA collection is painless. The gentle swabs minimize any chance of irritation.

How do I send the DNA ID Card back to BioPet? Once you have collected your DNA sample, simply place the DNA ID Card and all swabs, along with the Customer Information Card, in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

How does BioPet know which breeds are present in my dog? At BioPet, we have spent a considerable amount of time analyzing DNA from purebred dogs to build a comprehensive database that highlights the differences between different breeds. By comparing your dog’s DNA with our database we can identify which breeds are present in your dog.

What is the Ancestry Analysis Certificate? The results of the DNA analysis are printed on a certificate that is suitable for framing. These results will identify the breeds present in your dog’s ancestry.

Why are several breeds listed on my Ancestry Analysis Certificate, and what does the order mean? The list on the certificate shows the detected breeds in decreasing order. The most prevalent breed being listed first, the least prevalent being last.

What if there are breeds in my dog that are not in my database? We believe that 92% of the mixed breed population is covered by our validated breeds.

Will you be adding more dogs to your database? BioPet is actively working on adding more breeds to our database.
DNA Collection Device

For use with the BioPet DNA Breed Identification Test

Kit includes:
- Foam Swab enclosed with DNA ID Card
- Polyester Tipped Applicator
- Customer Information Card
- Instructions
- Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope

Instructions For Use

PLEASE NOTE: The enclosed DNA collection device may differ from that shown on the packaging.

1. Complete the Customer Information Card.
2. Do not feed the dog for at least 1 hour before sampling. Allow the dog to drink plenty of water. Check the dog’s mouth to ensure no food is present.
3. If sampling multiple dogs, wash hands between each animal sampling to reduce the chance of DNA contamination.

NOTE: The DNA Breed Identification Test is NOT a saliva test. Check cells from the inside of your dog’s mouth are required.

4. Remove the foam-tipped swab A, DNA ID card and the polyester tipped applicator (swab B) (see figure 1). To insure that we receive adequate DNA cells for analysis, we ask that you use both swabs for DNA collection.
5. Place the foam end of the swab A into the dog’s mouth and rub the pad in a circular motion against the inside of the cheek for several seconds, rotating the pad so that each side of the pad is used. Swab inside each cheek twice for a total of FOUR swabblings (see figure 2).
6. Place the DNA ID card onto a firm surface and place the foam end of the swab A onto the pink portion of the circle in the center of the card (see figure 3). Roll one side of the foam swab back and forth to transfer the dog’s cheek cells onto the card. Fold the paper flap over to cover the foam swab. Press firmly for ten seconds. Open flap, turn the swab over, place back on the DNA ID card. Repeat rolling and pressing process.
7. Remove the swab A from the DNA card and inspect the DNA ID card. For successful DNA collection, at least 50% of the circle on the DNA ID card will have changed from the original dark pink color to a lighter shade of pink to white.
8. If no area of the circle has changed color, repeat steps 5 through 7.
9. Some breeds of dogs have a dry mouth. If the DNA ID Card has not changed color after two attempts, add between 3 and 6 drops of water to the foam pad and repeat steps 5 through 7.
10. Once the color change has been observed, allow the DNA ID card to dry with the flap open for 30 minutes at room temperature (see figure 4). Inspect the DNA ID card. For successful DNA collection, at least 50% of the circle on the DNA ID Card will have changed from the original dark pink color to a lighter shade of pink to white.
11. The polyester tipped applicator (swab B) is a stand-alone device, and does not need to be applied to a DNA ID Card. Simply collect the DNA cells using the same swabbing technique and place the swab in the prepaid envelope.
12. Write your dog’s name on the card and then place the card, both swabs and the completed Customer Information Card directly into the enclosed prepaid envelope and mail to BioPet Vet lab.
13. Your dog’s Ancestry Analysis Certificate and Breed Behavior, Health and Personality Summary will be mailed to you along with the DNA ID Card which can be used as a permanent identification tool for your dog.