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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 ensure that the proper animal information is on the label of 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. Do not stack cards or allow the testing surfaces 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.

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 DNA Blood Card has sample collection paper inside and space to record the alpaca's information on the front. Old DNA Blood Cards may have an outer manila envelope.

Post-Procedure Handling and Shipping

1. After the card is completely dry, complete the requested information on the front of the card. For original registrations, the barcode number on the back of the card will become the alpaca's registry number. Write the barcode number in the alpaca's registry spot on the front of the card. For retests, write the alpaca's registry number in this spot. Never mark through the barcode on the back of the card as this is used to track the blood card.
2. Regular mail is acceptable for DNA Blood Cards.
3. If you are submitting a Paper Registration Form and want to pay by credit card, download the Credit Card Authorization form at www.AlpacaInfo.com, complete it, and send along with your blood card and registration form.
4. If you are mailing the DNA Blood Card from Canada or another non-U.S. location, visit our web site at www.AlpacaInfo.com for a copy of the U.S. Veterinary Permit for Non-U.S. Members along with the mailing instructions.

Mailing Instructions

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, paper registration form, and payment in U.S. funds to:
Alpaca Owners Association, Inc.
8300 Cody Dr, Ste A
Lincoln, NE 68512

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.

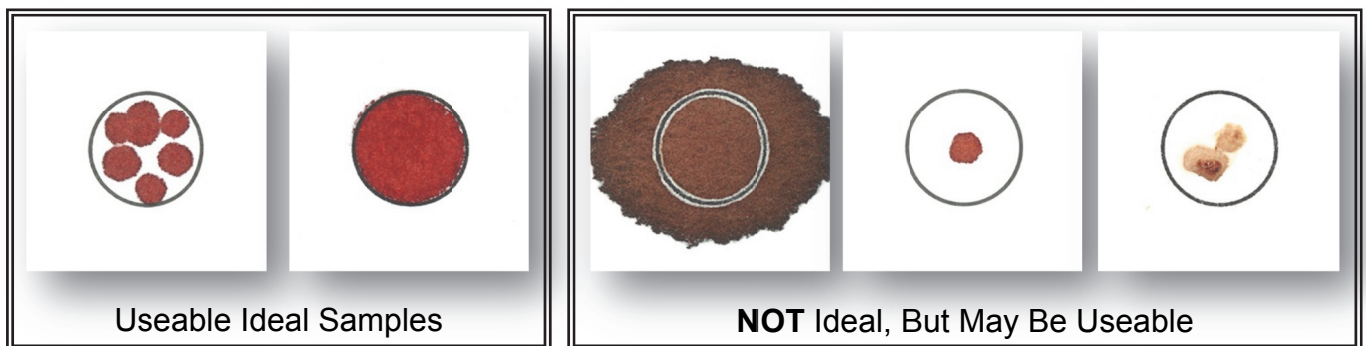


Back of Ears



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 card. Fill the circle as shown in the ideal samples below. The blood sample should fill at least half of the circle. This is especially important if you are requesting a BVDV test as they take a larger sample. Do not flood the card, or use too little, as shown below in the not ideal examples.



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.**