



Important Instructions for Collecting and Submitting DNA Blood Cards

The accuracy of DNA analysis depends on proper sample collection and handling. Follow these guidelines to ensure reliable results.

Sample Collection Guidelines

- **Sample Quality:** DNA analysis depends on both the quality of the blood sample and the collection procedure. Contaminated or insufficient samples may require resubmission.
- **Labeling:** Clearly write the correct animal information on each DNA Blood Card.
- **Avoid Contamination:** Handle one alpaca at a time and prevent contact between cards.
- **Drying:** Prepare a clean, flat surface for air-drying cards before collection. Do not expose cards to heat or direct sunlight. Cards must be completely dry before folding.
 - **Do not stack** cards or allow wet surfaces to touch.

NOTE: If the sample is insufficient or unusable, a new card will be required.

Pre-Procedure Storage and Handling

- Store unused DNA Blood Cards at room temperature in a dry place, such as a file folder or manila envelope.
- Avoid touching the collection area. Wear disposable gloves (latex, vinyl or nitrile) when possible. If gloves are unavailable, wash hands thoroughly before handling.
- Each card includes a sample collection area and space on the front for alpaca information. Some older cards include an outer manila envelope.

Post-Procedure Handling and Shipping

1. **Complete the Card:** After the card is fully dry, fill in the required information on the front.
 - a. For original registrations, the barcode on the back becomes the alpaca's registry number. Write this number in the designated space on the front.
 - b. For retests, write the existing registry number in the same space.
 - c. Do not mark through or obscure the barcode.
2. **Mailing:** DNA Blood Cards may be sent via regular mail or other shipping methods. Delivery times may be longer than expected. Tracking is recommended but not required.
3. **International Shipping:** If mailing from Canada or another non-U.S. location, visit www.AlpacaInfo.com to obtain the U.S. Veterinary Permit and follow all instructions.

Drawing the Blood Sample

1. Prepare a DNA Blood Card by writing your account number and the alpaca's name in the space provided. Do not write inside the card below the sample area.
2. Secure the alpaca as you would for a veterinary procedure.
3. Select one of the following methods:
 - a. Locate a vein on the outer ear or along the midline on the underside of the tail.
 - b. Use a sterile needle to puncture the ear and allow blood to drop directly onto the card without a syringe.
 - c. Puncture the ear or ear vein and collect blood using a syringe.
 - d. If performing an IgG test, use blood from the same draw to complete the DNA Blood Card.

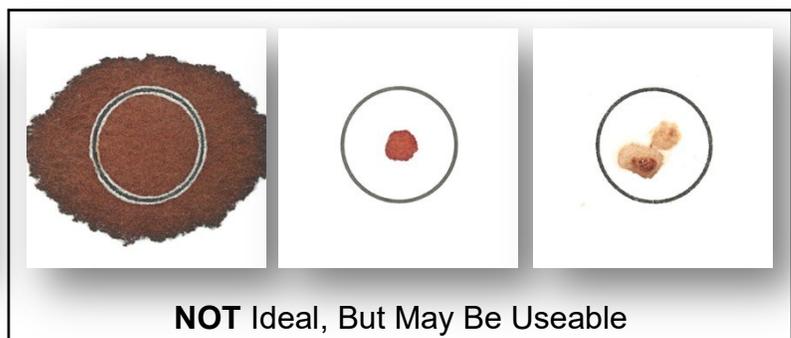
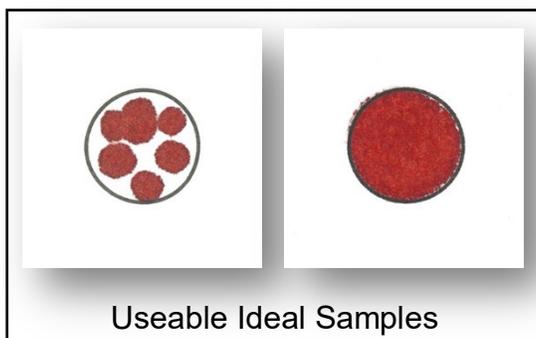


Back of Ears



Backside

4. Clean the site with 99% alcohol and allow it to air dry.
5. Keep the card open and ready, right side up.
6. Use a new sterile needle and syringe for each alpaca to prevent contamination.
7. Collect the sample:
 - a. Insert the needle into the vein or puncture the ear.
 - b. If using a syringe, gently draw blood or collect blood from the puncture site.
8. Apply blood to the card:
 - a. Hold the card beneath the needle and deposit the sample onto the collection area, or allow blood to drip directly onto the card.
 - b. Do not allow the needle to touch the card.
9. Fill the sample area:
 - a. Fill at least half of the circle.
 - b. Do not oversaturate or underfill the sample.
 - c. Adequate volume is especially important for BVDV testing.



10. Apply pressure to the puncture site using clean gauze or a paper towel.
11. Air-dry the card immediately:
 - a. Place in a clean, dry environment.
 - b. Do not use heat or direct sunlight.
 - c. Do not stack cards or allow samples to touch.
 - d. Dry completely before closing the flap or placing in an envelope.
12. Allow at least one hour for drying.
 - a. Do not use heat-assisted methods.
 - b. Never place the sample in or near a microwave.