



## Instructions for Submitting Samples for Dingo DNA testing at UNSW

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1. Samples from any dog/dingo can now be tested. The test involves genetic analysis of up to 23 markers that differ between dogs and dingoes.
2. All samples should be booked in for testing via the [Dingo DNA online booking system](#)
3. We prefer a blood sample for testing as it provides better quality DNA. If you require FTA cards or buccal swabs for sample collection, these can be provided upon request.
4. The cost per sample for dingo genetic testing is \$150. Payment can either be made by credit card at the time of booking the test via the online booking system, or by cheque, which must be sent with a copy of the completed online order page. Cheques must be made out to the University of New South Wales.
5. For positive identification of captive animals, microchip details should be provided if possible. Microchip numbers are used to confirm identify so that results can be checked in cases of disputes. Testing can be done without microchips if the owner wants the results for their own information. This could allow sampling at home.
6. For each sample to be tested, fill in all available details on a Dingo Sample Sheet (available on the website). Include information on parentage where available, and any knowledge of the animal's origins, e.g., breeder, location if caught in the wild.
7. Collect the sample by one of the following methods
  - (a) Blood in EDTA tube (~1 ml) taken by a vet.**

Non-infectious blood samples need to be wrapped correctly to comply with postal regulations. The sample needs to be covered in enough absorbant material (e.g. cotton wool) to absorb any spill; it must be packed in a leak-proof container (e.g. screw cap plastic bottle); and it must be supported so it will not be crushed in transit.  
DO NOT freeze blood samples before shipping (they can be refrigerated); ship at room temperature.
  - (b) Provide 5 or 6 drops of blood on an FTA card (available on request)**

FTA cards are handy for long-term storage and long distance shipping of samples. Put only a small amount of blood on the card, enough to wet it in several places. Too much blood makes the card unusable and can lead to very poor results.
  - (c) Buccal swab (available on request)**

Buccal swabs need to be rubbed on the inside of the mouth to get loose cells. They provide little DNA, but will sometimes work for some animals. We use cytology brushes or cotton swabs. Results can be poor if not enough DNA is collected.
  - (d) Tissue samples (~5 mm sq) eg ear punch**

Tissue samples can be used for testing, and can be sent in the mail. Only a small amount is needed, and it can be dried before shipping to prevent bacterial growth and smell. Wrap it well inside a leak-proof container (e.g. screw cap plastic bottle) and ship at room temperature.

8. Clearly label each sample with the animal's name and microchip number or registration number. Include the address, phone and email contact of the sender for results to be returned.
9. Mail samples with a completed Dingo Sample Sheet for DNA Testing; copy of online order page; and cheque or evidence of credit card payment to:

Dingo Genetic Testing  
Ballard Lab  
School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences  
University of NSW  
Sydney NSW 2052

10. If you wish to courier samples, note that address is different to the mailing address:

Dingo Genetic Testing  
School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences  
Biological Sciences Building (D26), Ballard Lab Room 217  
The University of NSW  
Kensington NSW 2033  
Enter via Gate 11, Botany Street

11. Results will generally be available 6 weeks after arrival of the sample.
  - Samples will be processed on a fortnightly basis
  - Results will be notified by email in the first instance
  - A repeat sample may be requested if the sample supplied is of insufficient quality for testing

Please forward any email enquiries to: [w.ballard@unsw.edu.au](mailto:w.ballard@unsw.edu.au)  
Telephone enquiries: (02) 9385-2021