

Bernese Mountain Dog DNA and Tissue Repository Guidelines for Regional Clinic

While the actual blood draws and swabs are not hard to collect, keeping the samples properly labeled, and organized is the most difficult part.

Documents

- Submission forms (<http://cvm.msu.edu/research/the-bernese-mountain-dog-dna-and-tissue-repository-at-michigan-state-university/submission-form.pdf/view>)

All owners who are submitting blood or cheek swabs need to fill out a Repository submission form to be returned with the samples.

- Berner-Garde number if possible. A computer with internet access and a printer makes the entire registration process go smoothly. It also helps MSU to have this information available when they process the samples. A dog with a BG number is easy to do as the form will populate itself with the BG number. If a dog is not already in BG, have the owner complete the blank submission form and the repository staff will add the dog to the database.
- If you have a BGF number, there is no need to complete the entire submission form, just fill in the BG number and dog name!

Blood samples

1. Vet or vet tech to draw blood.
2. They should bring whatever needles, syringes, and tourniquets they prefer to use,
3. Lavender top blood tubes (with EDTA anticoagulant)
4. Paper towels for wrapping blood tubes
5. Sandwich baggies to put tubes into
6. Styrofoam coolers
7. Frozen cold packs

(LABELING IS VERY IMPORTANT!)

- Label blood tube with owner's last name, dogs "call name" and the dog's Berner-Garde number if available.
- Place blood tubes with a towel, in the baggies, then put in the cooler during the draw
- Have the insulated box full of ice at event to keep samples cold during the day

Cheek swabs

1. Swabs (3 per dog)
2. Labels for swabs
3. Envelopes

Each envelope containing a swab must be labeled and put in an envelope with a corresponding label!

Personnel:

1. 1-2 vet techs for the blood draw, depending on how many dogs you think you will have. One club's guideline: two technicians will accommodate 50 dogs in 3 hours.
2. One or two people to make sure blood samples are properly labeled
3. Two people to help do cheek swabs (and labeling)
4. At least one to hand out submission forms and cheek swab labels
5. One person on a computer looking up BG numbers is ideal!

Instructions for getting swabs and blood, as well as shipping, are on the repository website. In general, you need to have EDTA tubes that hold about 5cc. You can organize this any way you see fit, but we found that an assembly line works best.

1. Register: Receive and complete submission forms and envelopes and labels for the swabs. Have them fill out the dog name, owner name and BGF numbers for those dogs in BG, or fill out complete owner and dog info if not in BG.
2. Swab Station. Ensure the swab kits are labeled, swab the dog, put the swabs in the envelope provided, put all swabs in a box that can then be used for shipping – this is all done at room temperature.
3. Blood Draw Station. Label the tubes with a call name, owner name and BG number. One tube is drawn and put into the cooler (with a cold pack) to await shipping.

Finally, someone needs to pack up the cooler full of blood properly and send it to MSU. You should wrap blood tubes individually in a paper towel, then put a few wrapped tubes in a baggie. These should be packed in a Styrofoam cooler with a frozen cold pack. Cheek swabs can be sent with no special packaging. If a blood draw is done on a Saturday, you should refrigerate the blood and ship overnite express on Monday to MSU.

Really, keeping things organized with a good flow of dogs moving the process is the hardest part!

COST

BGF is subsidizing the cost of supplies, for blood and cheek swab collections by regional clubs.

We cant cover the cost of a vet tech, but most clubs have one or two vet techs who will volunteer to draw blood, so you wont have to pay that.

Blood draw supplies are available from MSU:

Contact: berners@cvm.msu.edu.

You can order enough kits to meet the approximate number dogs. Any leftover supplies can be returned to MSU and they will give us a credit.

Our technicians at MSU are either Marlee Richter or Sharon Laird

Notes:

Make sure dogs do not have snacks 30-60 minutes before cheek swabs, or the swabs will be contaminated!

The blood draw process seems to be easier on the dogs when they have some privacy. Being in an open room seems to cause more distress. A privacy screen or a separate room seems to make them more comfortable. You or your technicians can decide who should assist with holding the dog – either the owner or another volunteer.

Feel free to add notes to this if you have some good ideas that made your clinic more successful!