



Animal Health Trust
the science behind animal welfare

Afghan Hound DNA Sample Archive

The Animal Health Trust is pleased to be able to accept DNA samples from Afghan Hounds for storage, with a view to using them for future research projects if necessary. Research projects aimed at identifying disease mutations, for example, require large numbers of DNA samples from affected dogs and their close relatives, as well as unrelated, unaffected dogs. Routinely archiving DNA samples from dogs within the population, particularly breeding dogs, can significantly reduce the amount of time required to collect the requisite number of samples, once a particular inherited disease/condition has been recognised. Breed characteristics, such as genetic diversity, can also be studied using DNA sample collections.

Samples can be submitted as blood samples preserved in EDTA, which should only be collected when a dog is having blood drawn for a veterinary procedure, or as buccal (cheek) swabs, which owners can take themselves.

Every sample needs to be accompanied by an AHT sample submission form and copies of any important health reports or information. Owners do not need to include information about routine visits to their vets (for vaccinations etc.), only information about serious or potentially inherited conditions. Similarly, owners should inform the AHT if their dog develops a serious health condition after they have submitted a sample for storage. DNA samples that are not accompanied by health information are less likely to be useful in the future than those that are accompanied by such information.

The Genetics team at the AHT will log the details pertaining to each sample into a database, and will store the DNA samples at -20° for future use. The sample collection will be regularly

monitored and periodic updates could be sent to a nominated person, detailing the number of samples that have been submitted. These updates will include only names of dogs from which samples have been submitted and will not contain any health or owner information.

There is currently no charge for DNA storage, but the AHT is not directly funded to provide this service so we do ask for a donation of £5 for each swab kit provided. Additional funds would also need to be sought to pay for a research study, should one be deemed necessary in the future and sufficient samples had been collected.

For more information or to request a DNA swab kit lease contact Bryan McLaughlin
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