



Instructions for sending blood samples to the Ostrander lab

1. Obtain the services of a veterinarian or veterinary technician with experience in canine peripheral venous blood draw.
2. Prepare the skin surface for sterile draw using alcohol or other antiseptic wipe.
3. Fill each of the two tubes supplied with peripheral venous blood, minimizing the contact with air. The tubes contain a vacuum and will automatically draw blood from the syringe or butterfly assembly.
4. Don't worry if you cannot fill the tubes completely. We prefer a minimum of 5mL but will make due with any amount you can manage.
5. Please label each tube in pen or permanent marker with the following so that we can identify the sample:
 - **Dog's name**
 - **Breed**
 - **Sex**
 - **Owner's name**
6. Return the filled tubes to the mailer with proper cushioning for shipping. Paper towels work well. Ship as close to the draw date as possible.
7. Mail the samples and paperwork to the address listed below. You may send the containers using the United States Postal Service or any other shipping company (i.e. FedEx, UPS, Airborne Express, etc.)
The Ostrander lab cannot pay for or reimburse shipping and veterinary bills.
8. Blood samples do not need to be refrigerated. The anticoagulant in the tube will keep the sample preserved for up to a week at room temperature. But it can be helpful to store the blood in the refrigerator if it will be a couple days before shipping.
9. Please send an email to let us know when the samples are on the way to the lab. Also please contact us with any questions. Thank you so much for your participation.

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