

Papillon Club of America Health & Genetics



NAD Testing Protocol

Dr. Giger and PennGen Laboratories are set up to receive DNA samples from Papillon owners to test for NAD. (Neuroaxonal Dystrophy)

Only PennGen, associated with The University Of Pennsylvania, is doing the first testing. You will have to go online to PennGen and set up an account. (The account is free). When you fill out the online form for each dog to be tested, you will be provided with a submission ID that must be included with your test sample.

A link to PennGen is near the end of this announcement. You can send blood samples if you prefer but this announcement is geared toward cheek samples. PennGen has online instructions concerning blood samples.

PennGen doesn't provide the swabs. They have a link to a company that does but their prices are quite expensive. Some regional Papillon clubs may be obtaining and providing swabs as are several members of the Papillon Club of America Genetics Committee. They are also available online, at many pharmacies, or medical supply businesses. We have found sources at WalMart, a medical supply company Alternacare and Amazon. Search for "sterile swabs." A more technical term is "cytology swabs" but that doesn't seem to produce as many results. You will probably find them in larger packs but the cost is minimal and you will need more later for PRA testing.. You **MUST USE STERILE** swabs. They must come in a sealed, sterile package. They must be at least 6 inches long. The brush type is preferred but the cotton type is also acceptable.

You will need to use **TWO** swabs for each test. One for each cheek. Before taking the swab test, you must have your dog crated or isolated from any kind of outside contaminant for at least 3 hours. No food, no water, no chews, no toys, etc. Be sure to wash your hands before and between testing each dog. Do not allow the tip of the swab to touch anything other than it's packaging and the inside of the dog's mouth. The handle of the swabs must be made of plastic, -no wooden handle swabs.

Remove the swab from its package and insert it into the dog's mouth along the inside of the cheek. Gently push the cheek to the gum and rotate the swab for 15-20 seconds. You are after cells and not just saliva. Remove it and allow it to dry. Do the same with the second swab in the other cheek.

Don't blow on the swabs to dry them.
Don't touch the swab end.

When the swabs are dry, put them back in their package and tape the end shut. On an envelope, identify the dog's registration number, dog's name and owner, microchip or tattoo if available. Print and include the submission ID number that PennGen gave you. Put that with the swabs in the envelope and send in a sturdy mailing container. A priority mail small box is recommended. The swab sticks must not be crushed or broken.

For international shippers, PennGen has instructions on their site.

Do not store the swabs in a plastic bag, refrigerator, ice or anywhere that condensation could occur.

A nursing bitch cannot be tested. As she licks and cleans her babies, she is mixing their DNA in her mouth so it wouldn't be accurate. You will have to wait until the litter is weaned. Nursing puppies cannot be tested. They must be weaned first.

The test is \$100 but you don't pay until PennGen has the results ready. The turnaround is up to 4 weeks and they will notify you by email, you will go online and pay with a credit card and they will provide you AND ONLY YOU, the test results.

Here's a link to PennGen :

<http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu%2Fpenngen>