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## PROTOCOL FOR COLLECTION OF HAIR SAMPLES FOR GENETIC TESTING

### ***Background***

DNA is contained in the root of the hair, not in the shaft itself. It is therefore essential that the hair roots (which are clearly visible as bulbous protrusions) are attached to the plucked hairs submitted for DNA analysis.

### ***Sample***

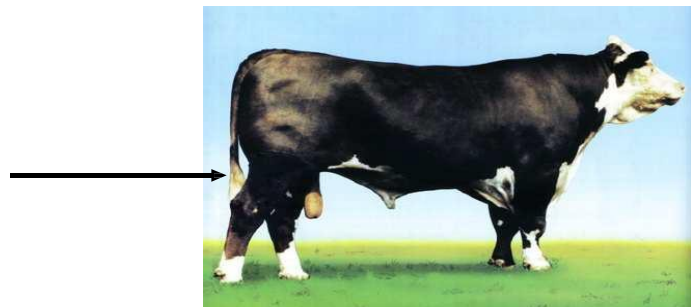
Please collect long, thick hairs from the switch/brush of the tail.

It is imperative that hairs submitted for DNA analysis are clean and dry. Moisture, combined with faecal contamination, which is difficult to avoid in some instances, degrades the DNA, impacting on our ability to obtain a result. Please avoid sending samples that are wet or have faecal contamination if at all possible.

NOTE: SHORT, FINE BODY HAIRS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR DNA ANALYSIS.

### ***Sampling procedure***

1. Collect long, thick hairs from the switch/brush of the tail



2. Select 10-20 tail hairs, wrap the hairs around your finger, and pluck with a rapid, sharp motion.

**Repeat the procedure to obtain about 20 to 30 hairs.**



3. The hooked or bulbous hair roots (follicles) plucked from under the skin should be clearly visible.

**It is only the follicle that contains the DNA, not the hair strand.**



4. If the samples are contaminated with faeces trim the distal end (opposite end to the bulbs).
5. Please do NOT tie a knot in the hair sample, it makes it very difficult to process in the laboratory
6. Place the hair sample on the collection card and stick the sticker across the middle of the sample, taking care to allow enough hair above it so that the follicles may be identified and cut in the lab.
7. Clearly label the sticker with the unique identity of the subject from which the sample was collected. It is this identity that will appear on the report.

**NOTE: IF SEVERAL TESTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ONE SAMPLE, PLEASE ENSURE THAT A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF HAIR IS SUBMITTED – A GOOD ESTIMATE IS AT LEAST 10 FOLLICLES PER TEST.**