



**Morris Animal
FOUNDATION**
Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

Annual Veterinary Sample Kit: Collection & Shipping Instructions

Tips for Participating Veterinarians

Thank you for your participation in this groundbreaking study. We understand study visits involve extra time and effort. Please review the following list of tips that may help streamline the process for you and your staff. If you have any other ideas, please feel free to share them with the study team or on the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Veterinarians Facebook page. If you have questions or need assistance, the customer care team is available 8 a.m. — 6 p.m. EST at 855-4GR-DOGS, or grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org.

- We recommend having a team of three clinic staff members perform the blood draw – one for gentle control, one for managing the venipuncture, and one to handle the numerous blood tubes required.
- As soon as possible after the annual study examination and sample collection, log on to caninelifetimehealth.org to complete the veterinary questionnaire for your patient. (You must be on the Canine Lifetime Health Project website and not the general Morris Animal Foundation website).
- Write your username and password in each study patient's chart where it is easy to find. Your username is your email address and is case sensitive. Your password never needs to be changed.
- For the annual questionnaire you will report on health events, medications and vaccines given throughout the previous 12 months. If your software system does not show problem lists, medications and vaccines separately, consider maintaining an annual list for each category within the patient chart for easy review. You will need the vaccine manufacturer and lot number.
- A hard copy of the veterinary questionnaire is included in each kit. You can complete it as you perform the exam or dictate to a staff member.
- A knowledgeable staff member can enter the annual exam information online from the completed hard copy questionnaire or from your medical records.
- Please schedule extra time the day of a study examination for you or a trusted staff member to complete the online questionnaire.
- You can skip a question by using the table of contents on the right side of the screen (instead of clicking next, which requires the current page to be complete).

1 Sample Collection Procedures

Blood Collection

Blood samples should be collected using the Vacutainer blood collection system included in this sample kit. For instructions on how to use the Vacutainer blood collection system, see Appendix 1.

You may use either of the following:

- The butterfly catheter attached to the Vacutainer needle holder using a cephalic vein or lateral saphenous vein

OR

- The straight needle attached to the Vacutainer needle holder using a jugular vein.

If there are complications and you are not able to obtain all the blood required in one visit, ALL blood samples will have to be redrawn during a follow-up visit using replacement supplies. To request replacement supplies, please call the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

Using the Vacutainer holder and either the butterfly or straight needle provided, draw blood in the following order:

- 1 Fill the 3 mL EDTA* ANTECH tube (purple top; no barcode).
 - Verify the information on the label and print the date on the label.
- 2 Fill the 3 mL EDTA* barcoded biorepository tube (purple top; barcode 094XXXXXX00YY, EDTA).
- 3 Fill the 10 mL EDTA* biorepository tube (purple top; barcode: 094XXXXXX10YY, EDTA).
- 4 Fill the four 10 mL serum tubes (red tops; no barcodes).

* To prevent clotting, immediately invert the EDTA tubes several times to mix the blood with the anticoagulant.



You will need to collect at least 56 mL of blood.

If necessary, use a needle and syringe (not supplied) to collect additional blood to top off any underfilled tubes.

Read all instructions before collecting samples.

Sample Collection Procedures (Cont.)

1

Serum Isolation

Allow the four serum tubes (red tops) to clot for at least 45 minutes and then centrifuge per your clinic's normal protocol (we recommend 1100–1300 RCF for 10 minutes).

After centrifugation, remove the Vacutainer cap from each of the four serum tubes (red tops) and using the 3 mL transfer pipette provided (DO NOT POUR), transfer the serum as follows:

- Place 1.5 mL of serum into the 3 mL ANTECH serum tube. The blackline on the left side of the tube label indicates the appropriate fill volume (white top; no barcode).
 - Verify the information on the label and print the date on the label.
- Place 1 mL of serum into the 3 mL biorepository serum transport vial (white top; barcode: 094xxxxxx01YY, SERUM).
- Place 10 mL of serum into the 10 mL biorepository serum transport vial (red screw-top; barcode: 094XXXXXX20YY, SERUM).

If additional serum is needed to achieve the required volumes, try re-centrifuging the blood remaining in the tubes. Once the appropriate amount of serum has been collected, discard the clotted red-top tubes.



Urine Collection

Collect a minimum of 10 mL of urine via free catch or cystocentesis.

A transfer pipette is provided for your convenience to:

- Place a minimum of 5 mL of urine into the ANTECH urine tube (green top; no barcode).
 - Verify the information on the label and print the date on the label.
- Place a minimum of 5 mL of urine into the biorepository urine tube (green top; barcode: 094XXXXXX30YY, URINE).



1 Sample Collection Procedures (Cont.)



Fecal Collection

If the owner did not bring the dog's fecal sample to the visit, please obtain a sample from the patient during the visit. Transfer a marble-sized sample (approximately 1 g) of feces into each of the following:

- 30 mL ANTECH fecal collection tube (white top; no barcode).
 - Verify the information on the label (no bar code) and print the date on the label.
- Biorepository fecal collection tube (brown top; barcode: 094XXXXXX60YY, FECAL),



Toenail Trimmings Collection

Collect 5–10 toenail trimmings from the dog.

- Place the toenail trimmings into the biorepository 2 mL plastic cryogenic tube (blue screw-top; barcode: 094XXXXXX50YY, NAIL).



Hair Collection

Cut a lock of hair $\approx 1/4$ " in diameter (about the diameter of a wooden pencil) and a minimum of 2" long as close to the root as possible.*

- Place the lock of hair into the 3.5 mL biorepository tube (orange screw-top; barcode: 094XXXXXX40YY, HAIR).

* Please ask the owner for the preferred collection site.

Proceed to shipping instructions on the next page.

Shipping Instructions 2



Placing A Service Call For FedEx Shipment(s)

Place a service call to FedEx directly at 800.463.3339. Let them know you have packages for pickup and tell them that the shipping cost is being billed to ANTECH Diagnostics and Fisher BioServices with a “Billable Stamp.” ANTECH and Fisher BioServices will also be covering the costs for the biohazard shipping fees. If your clinic is inadvertently charged any fees, please contact the study team.

All samples must be collected and shipped the same day.

2 Sample Packaging & Shipping



Biorepository Shipment

Fill out the form titled “Shipment Inventory Form (Fisher BioServices)—Golden Retriever Lifetime Study” and include the patient information, collection date, collection times, sample shipment inventory and any optional comments.



- Place the following three samples into the Styrofoam shipping container*
 - 5 mL of urine—10 mL green-top tube
 - 10 mL of EDTA blood—purple-top tube
 - At least 10 mL of serum—red-top tube
- Close the Styrofoam shipping container and place it inside the zip-closure Lab-Loc Biohazard bag. Also place the following seven items inside the zip-closure Lab-Loc Biohazard bag:
 - Blood sample tube (3 mL EDTA)—purple-top tube
 - Serum sample tube (1 mL of serum)—white-top tube
 - Fecal sample tube—brown-top tube
 - Nails cryogenic tube—blue-top tube
 - Hair cryogenic tube—orange-top tube
 - Absorbent paper towel
 - Shipping inventory form
- Place the biorepository zip-lock bag inside one of the provided FedEx Clinical Paks and seal the envelope.
- On the FedEx air shipment bill labeled “FedEx Express US Airbill,” complete the required “From” section. Retain the top copy for your records. Place the shipment bill inside the provided pouch and seal the pouch. Peel the backing from the pouch and affix it to the indicated location on the FedEx Clinical Pak.

* NOTE: All tubes for the biorepository shipment are barcoded.

Sample Packaging & Shipping (Cont.)

2

ANTECH Diagnostics Shipment

Verify all four tubes (no barcodes) are properly filled and labeled, including the date. Place the fecal (white top), 3 mL serum (white top), 3 mL EDTA (purple top) and 5 mL urine (green top) tubes in the ANTECH zip-closure bag.

- In the top header of the ANTECH Diagnostics requisition form, provide the following information: your clinic name and address, email and phone and fax number.
- Complete the information (doctor, date, client name, pet name, species, breed and age) in the upper right corner of the form.
- All laboratory tests are ordered with code 87007; this is a no-charge study code, so you must use this requisition form and verify that the study code is preprinted on the form. Failure to do so may result in charges to your clinic. No additional tests may be run with this order.
- Retain the bottom copy of the form for your records.



Package the samples for shipment to ANTECH via FedEx as follows:

- Place the completed top copy of the ANTECH Diagnostics requisition form into the ANTECH zip-closure bag (which should already contain the necessary samples).
- Place the zip-closure bag into the ANTECH Diagnostics shipping box.
- Place the box into one of the provided FedEx Clinical Paks and seal the envelope.
- On the right side of the FedEx Expanded Billable Stamp labeled ANTECH Diagnostics, provide your name, phone number and account #22725-7; then peel the right side of the label and affix it to the indicated location on the FedEx Clinical Pak. Retain the left portion of the label for your records in the event that your shipment requires tracking.



If you fail to use the provided requisition form, your clinic will not receive the lab results.

Entering Examination Information on the Study Website

Annual Examination

Don't forget! Please collect the information from your patient's examination and log on at caninelifetimehealth.org/secure to complete the annual questionnaire form for your patient. You will have the option to print a hard copy of this report once it is completed.

You will receive the test results from the samples you ship to ANTECH Diagnostics within three to five business days on your patient's record through your online study account at caninelifetimehealth.org. The results are posted under the tab labeled "Lab Results." The panel that is completed at this appointment includes: SuperChem, CBC, urinalysis, Total T4, heartworm antigen and fecal O&P.

Additional Study Reminders

Notify the study team immediately if you suspect or diagnose malignancy in a study dog. Full sample collection, including lymph node biopsy in suspected lymphoma cases, is required BEFORE treatment begins. Once malignancy is confirmed, you must complete an Additional Veterinary Visit questionnaire. This additional form will be found by logging on to your veterinarian user account on the study website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email the study team at grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org or call toll-free at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

We are here to help you!

Safety-Lok Butterfly Collection Needle

- 1 Check to ensure that the female luer adapter is securely attached to the male luer adapter and securely attached to the holder.
- 2 Remove the needle sheath and, while holding the wing, perform venipuncture according to your facility's established procedures. Then fill the required number of blood tubes.
- 3 Withdraw the blood collection set by grasping the translucent yellow safety-shield grip.
- 4 With the opposite hand, grasp the tubing and push the yellow shield forward until the safety shield is locked in place (you will hear a click).
- 5 Discard both the needle and the holder (as one unit) into your sharps container.

Eclipse Standard Collection Needle

- 1 Screw the holder onto the needle until it fits securely and the needle is fully seated onto the holder.
- 3 Twist and pull the colored needle cap straight off.
- 4 Perform venipuncture according to your facility's established procedures and fill the required number of blood tubes.
- 5 Discard both the needle and the holder (as one unit) into your sharps container.

5 About Morris Animal Foundation

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. The Foundation is a global leader in funding scientific studies for companion animals, horses and wildlife. Since its founding in 1948, Morris Animal Foundation has invested in studies that have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments, preventions and cures to benefit animals worldwide. Learn more at morrisanimalfoundation.org.



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Please contact the study team at 855.447.3647 for advice or assistance with any sample submission or to request replacement or additional supplies.