

## Suggestion for Biopsy Skin Tissue Collection from the Body of Your Pet (Living Pet)

The following instructions are applicable for collecting skin tissue samples from living pets:

### I. Supplies Required for Sampling:



- Razor
- Sterilizing Agent
- Sterile Gauze
- Scalpel Blade
- Tweezers
- Marker
- Sterile Blood Tubes (without anticoagulant) can be used
- Sterile cups, tubes, or vials
- Sterile Saline (0.9% sodium chloride)
- Ice Packs (we recommend at least 4 fully frozen 24-ounce ice packs)
- Insulated Foam Cooler for Shipment
- Thick paper towels (like the blue industrial kind) or similar

### II. Preservation Media

- The preservation media can be prepared locally using the following formula and mixing ratio:
  - 1) Sterile Saline Solution: 95%
  - 2) Penicillin-Streptomycin: 5% (The ratio of alternative antibiotics from the Penicillin family should be controlled at 5%)
- If the samples are collected according to surgical disinfection standards and can be sent to our lab in 3-4 days through a reliable delivery service (e.g. FedEx Overnight), the addition of antibiotics in the media is not critical and may be omitted.

### III. Order a Biopsy Kit

- For clients in America who prefer not to prepare the preservation media themselves, a biopsy kit can be

ordered from us. The biopsy kit includes specialized materials (foam box, ice packs and two tubes with preservation media) for handling tissue samples and ensuring their safe shipment.

#### IV. Sampling Areas

- The inner thigh is the ideal area to take skin issues samples from the living pets.

#### V. Cleaning and Disinfection

- Consult your vet, who can perform a light sedation procedure while ensuring your pet's comfort.



- Choose the determined area of the body and prepare to take four skin samples (measuring 3mm x 3 mm) from each area.
- Completely remove the hair from the skin surface using clipper or a razor.



- After the hair removal, follow the steps below to disinfect the shaved area:



- 1) Use a wet pad with 70% Isopropyl alcohol to wipe the area once;
- 2) (\*optional) Use a wet pad or swab with iodine to wipe the area once (ensure proper rinsing of iodine in step 3 if used, otherwise skip this optional step);
- 3) Use a wet pad with 70% Isopropyl alcohol to wipe the area once again;
- 4) Use a dry cotton ball or swab to remove any residual moisture, and wait for approximately 30 seconds for the treated area to air-dry.

## VI. Skin Biopsy Tissue Collection



- Use sterilized forceps and scissors (or clinically used skin biopsy punch) to collect a piece of skin tissue along with underlying connective tissue, fat tissue and muscle tissue.
- Place the samples into a storage buffer container. In case the size is too large for the container, the samples can be cut into smaller size (measuring ½ inch (L) x ½ inch (W) ½ inch (D)).



- Repeat the above procedure for the other areas, collecting same amount of tissues, and place them in separate containers. Tissue samples from different body parts should be kept separate.
- Comfort the pet, as it may experience some stress or discomfort. Apply gentle pressure to the sampled spot if minor bleeding occurs, and treat with an anti-inflammatory if necessary.



## VII. Storage of Tissues in Container before Shipment

- Store the tissue samples at a temperature of 4-10 degree Celsius in your fridge, away from exposure to light, until shipment.

## VIII. Packaging



- Use a foam shipping box with a length and width of at least 25cm and a height of 35cm (with a foam material thickness greater than 4cm).
- Place the sample tubes in the center of the box, surrounded by ice packs, and wrap paper towels around the tubes to avoid direct contact with the ice packs.

## IX. Shipment

- Send the samples to the address below, using the fastest possible courier option, e.g DHL or FedEx Express Services etc.

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- Consult your local courier for a delivery schedule to the destination address during weekdays (please avoid the weekend to prevent delay in shipping).
- If the samples are collected on Friday or during the weekend, please store the tissues in domestic fridge at the above-described condition until the next available day for shipping.

### Kind Reminder:

Please prepare the preservation media properly before sampling.