

CMO Testing Made Easier

By Kay McGuire, DVM, MS



There is news from OptiGen to make performing the genetic test for Craniomandibular Osteopathy (CMO) easier with a faster turn-around time!

OptiGen is offering to perform the CMO genetic test at the sale price of \$75 if registration is done on line. Please use sample code CMO16. If you prefer to submit the order by mail, the test is \$80. Sample brush kits will be sent with the registration or upon request. Results usually are available within a two-week time frame.

The Westie Foundation of America will support a sample collection clinic at Montgomery County Specialty week. We will have brush kits available at our National Roving Specialty in Ohio, August 14, 2016 that can be taken home and brought back in October. If there are dogs at home that you wish to sample, these tests can be brought back to Montgomery County and submitted together for the \$80 price.

Prior to Collection/Preparations:

- The dog to be sampled should not eat or drink for at least one hour prior to having the sample collected. This is to reduce the chance of contamination.

- The dog should be isolated from other dogs, toys and other possible sources of oral contamination for at least several hours, preferably one entire day, prior to sampling. This is to reduce the chance of dog to dog contamination.
- Just prior to sampling, check the dog's mouth to see that no food or other material is obviously present. If there is, clean/rinse the dog's mouth to remove it and wait another hour before collecting the sample.
- The person taking the samples should avoid touching the inside of the dog's mouth. Disposable latex gloves will help reduce contamination by the handler.
- If more than one dog is being sampled, the person doing the collections must wash hands or change gloves between collections.
- Never allow the sterile swab to touch anything except the inside of the dog's mouth or the inside of the package that it came in. Especially never allow contact between swabs from different dogs.
- Prepare a clean surface on which to place the opened swab package, or have the witness hold the open package and the second swab while you are swabbing the dog.

(Continued on page 5)

How to Collect the Cheek Swab Samples:

1. Use two swabs per dog.
2. Label the swab packets with the dog's call name, the owner's last name, permanent identification or registration number (if applicable) and collection date.
3. Label a standard paper (letter size) envelope with the same information as in #2.
4. Open the swab package at the handle end (NOT the collection tip end) and carefully peel the package away to within about an inch of the end and remove the first swab. Do not touch the collection tip of the swab.
5. Do not allow the tip of the swab to touch anything other than the inside of the dog's mouth and the inside of the packaging.
6. While holding the handle end of the swab, insert the tip along the inside of the cheek. Rotate the collection tip along the inside of the cheek for about 20 seconds. Pushing on the outside of the dog's cheek while rotating the swab will firmly press it between the gum and cheek and will enhance cell collection.
7. Hold the swab while it air dries for several seconds **Do NOT blow on the swab.**
8. **Reinsert the tip of the swab into the closed end of the package** and remove the second swab (if there are 2/package). If your swabs came in plastic containers instead of paper sleeves, put the swab directly into the labeled paper envelope; **DO NOT** use the plastic container.

9. Repeat the above steps on the other cheek with the remaining swab (i.e. 2 swabs/dog).



10. Place the packaged swabs in the labeled paper envelope (NOT a plastic bag) Do NOT put the test request form in the envelope with the swabs.
11. **OptiGen requires signatures on the test request form by the owner and by either a witness or the person collecting the sample if other than the owner. Two signatures are required in order to proceed with testing.**
12. Send the sample and completed test form following the Ship Sample (http://www.optigen.com/opt9_cheekswbship.html) instructions.

REMEMBER: If you wish this Test result to be available on the OFA website, your dog must have a permanent identification of either a microchip or tattoo.

**PLEASE NOTE THE
NEW ADDRESS FOR
MAILING DONATIONS**

**Westie Foundation of America, Inc
c/o Jim McCain, Donor Manager
302 Hemlock Cove
Ball Ground, GA 30107**