

# Equine Parentage and Animal Genetics Services Centre

## Instructions for the feather samples for gender testing or PBFD screening

The required sample for DNA gender determination and/or PBFD screening is a complete feather.

**When:** A feather sample can be plucked as soon as feathers or blood feathers are present on the bird.

**Where From:** Either a tail/wing or body feather is suitable.

**How: DO NOT CUT FEATHERS.** Feathers must be pulled from the bird, not picked up from the ground or cage. When taking the sample, **it is absolutely essential that the quill is attached and hasn't snapped off.**

Two feathers are required in case insufficient DNA is extracted from the first one tested.

## Despatch of samples to the laboratory

Feather samples are to be placed in a **paper** envelope. Each bird sample should have an envelope with species, identification (ring/band number/name or identifying feature from the other samples submitted at the time). Fill out a submission form with owner, address and email. Please include payment.

Charges as at April 2015 (inclusive of GST):

**Sex \$35 incl**

**PBFD/ Chlamydia \$35 incl**

**Sex and PBFD \$60 incl**

**Malaria by request.**

Place sample envelopes in a either a courier bag or standard envelope.

Please note that submissions for Chlamydia and Malaria tests will only be accepted from a veterinarian. Chlamydia testing is done using a dry swab, conjunctival, choanal or cloacal swab in a sick bird, or a swab from the liver from a post mortem case.

**Send your swab without transport medium.**

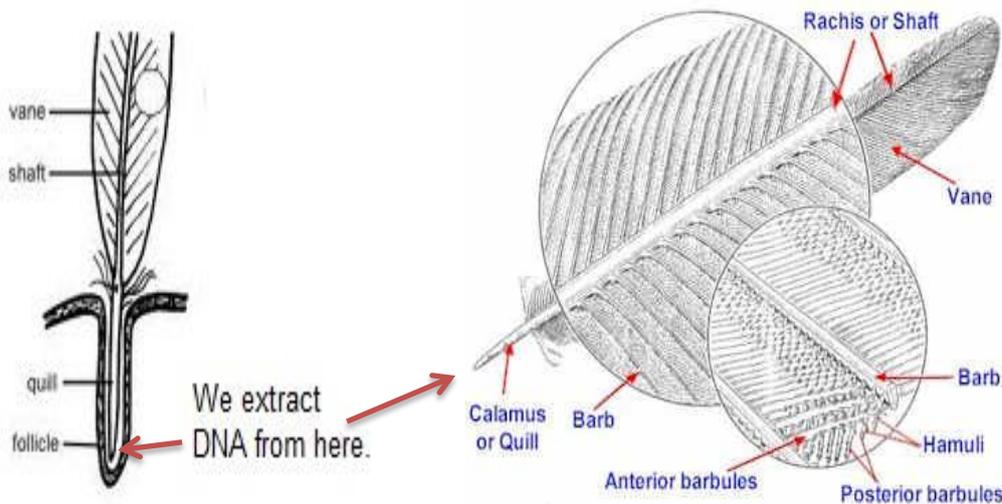
Malaria is tested using a blood sample.

## Address to send samples:

**Equine Parentage & Animal Genetic Services Centre  
Massey University  
Drysdale Drive  
Massey University PN811  
Palmerston North 4472**

## Taking feather samples.

To reduce the chance of contamination, don't touch the 'QUILL' of the feather with your fingers. If taking samples from more than one bird, use an alcohol hand sanitiser between handling birds.



### Note:

- Feathers must be pulled from the bird, not picked up from the cage.
- If the quill breaks off in the skin, we cannot use it for DNA extraction as the shaft is hollow and only the very tip has good cells that contain DNA.
- If the tip is so small YOU can't see it...WE probably can't either.
- Place the feather in a paper envelope, especially if it is a blood feather as these can rot.
- Blood feathers contain the most/best DNA for testing, although normal feathers are adequate.

