



**PFERDESTAMMBUCH**  
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN/HAMBURG E.V.

### **Taking samples from horses for laboratory testing**

Samples for molecular genetic tests must be taken and sent to the specialized laboratory from each individual horse to be tested. Only if this is done correctly, the laboratory analysis can provide the required basis, e.g., for parentage verification and determination of genetic characteristics. In this two-part information sheet, we have compiled important information and included an illustrated step-by-step instruction on the sampling procedure.

***What is needed for the laboratory analysis?*** about 50 - 100 hair roots from mane or tail

***How can you help ensure the analysis is carried out quickly and smoothly?***

- mane (alternatively: tail) is dry and free of visible dirt
- generous sampling – please be generous with regard to the thickness of the tuft of hair
- uncontaminated, individual animal sample – The analytical method used in the laboratory is very sensitive, so even a single hair from another animal can, in the worst case, lead to a distortion of the results!
- careful labeling of the sample bag (legible writing, double-checking of the life number)
- send samples to the breeding association as quickly as possible  
(The association is responsible for sending the sample to the relevant laboratory.)

***What do you need for sampling?***

- 1 envelope (new / clean, standard format C6 or smaller, without a window)
- equine passport
- pen
- optional: small, sturdy mane comb (e.g. made of metal)

***What else do you need for sending samples?***

- stamped and addressed envelope (see label form for the association's address)

### **Shipping labels**

You can print out the following labels, cut them out and stick them on the prepaid envelope to the breeding association.

An das  
Pferdestammbuch Schleswig-Holstein /  
Hamburg e.V.  
Steenbeker Weg 151  
24106 Kiel  
GERMANY

## Step-by-step instructions for sampling

### (1) Preparation of the envelope that serves as a 'sample bag'

Write the life number of the horse you are sampling on the envelope. Please make sure to use a document-proof pen (e.g. ballpoint pen). You will find the 15-digit life number on the front of the equine passport

If you wish to test several horses, please prepare a separate envelope for each horse and make sure that the samples cannot be mixed up when you insert them. For this purpose, it may be helpful to make a note of the horse's name on the envelope in addition to its life number.



### (2) Sampling

Make sure that no foreign hair is sticking to your hands or the comb you are using. Now section off a sufficiently thick strand of hair (at least 50 hairs).



Wrap the hair around the mane comb (or around your finger), then pull out the tuft of hair with a firm tug as close to the coat as possible. It is important that the hair roots are pulled out with the tuft.



Please check for successful sampling:  
Hair roots should be recognizable as small, whitish thickenings at the ends of the hair.

### (3) Preparing the sample for shipping

For longer hair, we recommend shortening it to approx. 10-12 cm so that the tuft fits comfortably in the envelope. Please make sure to shorten the hair from the correct side (i.e. the rootless end).



Please gather the shortened tuft of hair into a smooth and neat strand, and place in the prepared envelope. Make sure that the tuft of hair is completely contained in the envelope and no hairs protrude. Carefully seal the envelope with the sample (insert the flap and fold once in the middle).



Finally, write the date of sampling on the envelope. Now place the envelope with the sample in the stamped second envelope addressed to the breeding association (label on page 1).

If you have several samples to send, you are welcome to use a common outer, stamped envelope.

Please target sending the samples to the office of breeding association on the same day. If this is not possible, store the sample(s) at room temperature, protected from heat and moisture – and please remember to send them quickly.