



Dear inqaba biotec client,

Please see below Instructions for Blood Collection using FTA™ Blood Collection kit.

### Description

FTA cards are designed for the collection and protection of biological samples including blood for DNA testing. Whole blood is deposited directly onto the FTA Card. Upon contact, the proprietary chemical formulation lyses cells, denatures proteins and binds DNA to the card matrix. FTA preserves DNA on the card allowing storage for up to 10 years at room temperature, provided the cards are stored out of direct sunlight. To prepare FTA cards for use with downstream applications, allow the card to air dry at room temperature for three hours after applying the biological sample.

### Precautions

While handling FTA cards, it is recommended that you wear gloves and avoid touching the sample collection area of the card. Follow universal precaution for handling biological samples.

### Processing Samples with the kit

1. Open the FTA card kit. Lay the contents of the package out on a clean and dry surface. The kit contents are as follows:

1. FTA card sample Envelope
2. FTA Micro Card
3. Disposable lancet

2. Clean the ear/paw of the canine donating the sample properly before taking the sample.

3. Prepare the disposable lancet for use. Remove the protective covering of the lancet needle. Firmly insert the lancet needle on the clean ear/paw. Securely dispose of the lancet.

4. Manipulate the FTA card by holding the sides, gently press the FTA card against the ear/paw that was pricked to deposit a drop (+/- 2-5 mm in diameter) on the FTA card (Figure 1).

5. Press again the ear/paw and obtain a second thick drop of blood. Repeat until you obtain at least 3 drops for every test requested. Do not over saturate the FTA card.

6. Allow the sample to dry completely before submitting the sample.

### Shipping of samples

Send an e-mail to [info@inqababiotec.co.za](mailto:info@inqababiotec.co.za) or [animalgenetics@inqababiotec.co.za](mailto:animalgenetics@inqababiotec.co.za) to arrange collection of the samples. Please ensure the molecular request form accompanies the samples.



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



## The Sample Spot Check

If possible, allow a sufficient quantity of blood to soak through the FTA card. Do not layer successive drops of blood or apply blood more than once in the same collection area. Avoid touching or smearing spots.

Please see below invalid specimens and potential causes:

 <p>Specimen quality may be insufficient for testing due to the FTA card being removed from the sample area and there may be insufficient quantity for testing</p>	 <p>The specimen exhibits dilution or discoloration. If the sample area was over-squeezed/milked, the sample may exhibit dilution staining. If the card came into contact with open skin, alcohol or other solutions, dilution staining occurs. Oils from your skin and other substances that have contaminated an FTA card will inhibit the FTA ability to bind DNA. This pattern could also be due to exposure of the cards to heat. If the FTA cards have been exposed to heat, the efficacy of the sample has been compromised.</p>
 <p>Specimen appears scratched or abraded. Blood was applied using a capillary/similar apparatus. Alternatively the sample was not allowed to dry before being prepared for testing.</p>	 <p>The specimen exhibits classic serum rings. The sample area was not properly cleaned or the alcohol or detergent used to clean the sample area has not evaporated or removed effectively. Excessively squeezing of the sample area could also result in serum rings.</p>
 <p>The specimen appears oversaturated. Applying excess amounts of blood to the FTA cards results in oversaturation of the cards. If there is too much material on the FTA card and it will likely inhibit the tests downstream. If blood was applied to both sides of the FTA card, the card is likely oversaturated.</p>	 <p>The specimen appears clotted/layered. Multiple samples were applied to the same FTA card sample area.</p>

NOTE: inqaba biotec makes every effort to obtain results from a compromised specimen, however cannot guarantee a result if a specimen is compromised.