

DNA Test – Public Protocols

OBJECTIVE:

To provide owners of dogs suspected pit bulls an opportunity to present DNA test evidence to the Municipal Court.

POLICY:

1. Animal Services shall offer an owner the option to have DNA breed testing performed.
2. The City will object to the admissibility of:
 - A. Any DNA test kit other than the “Wisdom Panel” 2.0, 2.5, or 3.0 – “Breed Identification DNA Test” from the MARS company.
 - B. Any test not performed by a veterinarian or supervised by staff at the Aurora Animal Shelter.
 - C. Any test results that do not match microchip identification of the dog in question.
3. The Wisdom Panel DNA test kits may be purchased from the Aurora Animal Shelter, at a veterinarian, veterinarian supply store, pet store, pet supply store or online at www.wisdompanel.com/productlisting.

PROCEDURES:

1. **Procedures to have the test performed at the Animal Shelter:**
 - A. The owner shall schedule an appointment with either Field Supervisor (303-326-8286 or 303-326-8249) to have the test performed.
 - B. The dog is to be microchipped, at the owner’s expense, if a chip has not already been implanted.
 - C. Animal Services staff will record the sample identification number and the dog’s microchip number for later verification with the test results.
 - D. The dog will be escorted to the shelter’s Intake area.
 - E. Under the supervision of Animal Services staff, the owner will swab the dog’s mouth with the swabs supplied in the test kit in accordance with kit instructions. The assisting Animal Services staff will place the DNA sample, submission form and swabs in the pre-paid envelope.
 - F. A photo of the dog will be taken and attached to the animal’s record number,
 - G. Animal Services staff will mail the test kit in the pre-paid envelope to the laboratory for analysis, and activate the test with the MARS company.
 - H. Animal Services staff will provide the owner a copy of the results when they are received from the laboratory. Staff will maintain a copy for Division files.
2. **Procedures to have the test performed by a veterinarian:**
 - A. The owner shall arrange to have a veterinarian perform the DNA test.

- B. The veterinarian shall record on their letterhead paper these three mandatory requirements for the court to consider the results:**
1. The microchip identification number of the dog they test,
 2. The sample identification number of the test kit and
 3. The date they conducted the test.
- C. The document on letterhead should be mailed to Aurora Animal Shelter, c/o DNA Test, 15750 East 32nd Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011-1518.
- D. The veterinarian will mail the DNA sample to the laboratory in the pre-paid envelope.
- E. The veterinarian will have the results emailed to jshipman@auroragov.org.
- F. Animal Services staff will provide the owner a copy of the results when they are received from the laboratory. Staff will maintain a copy for Division files.