

July 30, 2010

Dear Alpaca Owners,

We are a research group at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University actively engaged in analyzing the alpaca genome. Currently we are generating a whole genome map for alpacas, and analyzing chromosome abnormalities related to various reproductive disorders. The long-term goal of this research is to identify genes associated with congenital disorders, so that molecular genetic tests can be designed for accurate diagnostics and prevention.

Essential part of the research is the collection of DNA samples from affected animals and, if possible, from their close relatives (parents, siblings, half-siblings, etc.). This is where we would like to ask for help from alpaca/llama owners and breeders because you are the people who not care about your animals, and know them the best.

We are requesting your collaboration in the form of blood samples from animals with:

- female and male reproductive defects and infertility;
- choanal atresia, other facial defects
- immunodeficiency;
- other developmental disorders

SAMPLES

These samples will be used to isolate and archive DNA for research projects in the future. We request about 10-20 ml blood (1 green top and 1 purple top vacutainer) from each animal.

INFORMATION

For each animal we would like to ask the following information:

- Breed**
- Age**
- Color**
- Sex**
- Brief clinical description of the disorder**
- Information about parents, sibs or half-sibs – does any of these have the same condition.**

Once we know that you are willing to contribute to our research, we will send you the vacutainers for blood collection, and pay for overnight shipment of blood samples back to our laboratory. Your kind cooperation to facilitate this research would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the e-mail address provided below.

We eagerly look forward to your support and cooperation,
Terje Raudsepp, PhD, Assistant Professor,
Associate Director of Molecular Cytogenetics Laboratory,
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KARYOTYPING FORM

**Molecular Cytogenetics Laboratory, Room 314B Bldg. 1197, Department of Veterinary Integrative
BioSciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX – 77843**

Voice: (979)-862-2879; FAX (979)-845-9972;

Contact e-mail: bchowdhary@cvm.tamu.edu or traudsepp@cvm.tamu.edu

Owner/Agent Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone# _____

Date Sample Taken: _____

Signature of person taking sample: _____

SPECIES SAMPLED (PLEASE PRINT):

Name of the Animal (Proband)	Registration No.	Year of Birth	Breed	Sex	Color

History of proband's father/sire:

History of proband's mother/dam:

Reasons for Karyotyping:

FAX/Email:(for sending results): _____

INVOICE to (name/address): _____

(1) Blood samples **MUST be collected in 2 x 5 ml sodium heparin tubes** (e.g. Vacutainer) **AND 4 X 10 ml EDTA tubes.**

(2) Samples **MUST** be sent by overnight mail. Please wrap the tubes in paper towels and only then put them on ice to **avoid freezing**. Samples degraded during transit are sender's responsibility.

(3) **PLEASE DO NOT** send samples on a Friday. Also ensure that samples sent on a Thursday reach the lab by Friday noon. Normal turn-around time for results is 10 working days.

(4) CHARGES (please make the checks payable to Texas AgriLife Research):

1. **\$225** – basic chromosome analysis from blood (chromosome number count and assessment of the sex chromosomes).
For species with available karyotype standard (cattle, horse, sheep, goat, pig, dog, cat).

2. **\$275** – basic chromosome analysis from blood (chromosome number count and assessment of the sex chromosomes).
For species with **NO** karyotype standard (alpaca, llama, exotic species).

3. **\$350** – basic chromosome analysis from fibroblast cultures of any species.

4. **\$450** – basic chromosome analysis for insurance agencies and private companies.

Plus **additional \$10** if we send the heparin tubes to you. Your veterinarian may charge an additional fee.

(5) **RESULTS.** The sender will be supplied with an image of a metaphase chromosome spread from a cell obtained from the sample. For detailed analysis (banded karyotype), there are extra charges.

(5) To ensure confidentiality, results will not be provided by phone, unless the requesting agency wants it.

(6) One copy of the results will be mailed or sent by fax or email to owner/agent.

Original records will be maintained on permanent file at the TAMU Veterinary Cytogenetics Laboratory.

OWNER CONSENT: I _____ **(owner/vet signature) hereby allow the cytogenetic laboratory to isolate and archive the DNA from this animal for research purposes.**