Dear Doctor,

Thank you for advancing veterinary medicine by participating in Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study!

Requirements for the physical examination can be found in the Veterinary Baseline Questionnaire located in the plastic sleeve in this shipment.

**Following are guidelines for the shipping of study samples:**

- All samples must be collected and shipped on the day of the examination (Monday–Thursday only). Samples cannot be shipped on Friday because one of the laboratories cannot receive samples on the weekend.

- Samples for Antech Diagnostics and the biorepository must be shipped via FedEx (do not use your Antech courier). You may need to arrange in advance for sample pickup, particularly if you are in a rural location. Call FedEx at 800.463.3339.

- We suggest having a team of three clinic staff members perform the blood draw (one for restraint, one for managing the venipuncture and one to handle the numerous blood tubes required).

**Samples that you will ship on the day of the examination:**

- Urine (10 mL total)
- Toenail trimmings (5–10 trimmings)
- Whole blood (15 mL total)
- Serum (13 mL total)
- Feces (≈2 g)
- Hair clippings (2” long and ¼” in diameter)

Please pass along the enclosed instructions and kit to the staff members who will be collecting and processing the samples.

If you have any problems with the kit or require clarification on the instructions, please call the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

We are here to help you!

Sincerely,

Michael K. Guy, DVM, MS, PhD
Director, Canine Lifetime Health Project
Morris Animal Foundation
## Baseline Veterinary Sample Kit Contents

Open the box and confirm that all items below are present and undamaged.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>CLINICAL LABORATORY SUPPLIES PACKAGE</th>
<th>Brown Envelope</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vacutainer one-use holder (BD364815)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Covidien 20-gauge monject blood collection needles [8881216025]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Butterfly needles 21-gauge Safety-Lok [BD367281]</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Transfer pipettes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 mL EDTA Vacutainer blood tube (purple top) [BD366643]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 mL EDTA Vacutainer blood tube (purple top) [BD367856]</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10 mL serum Vacutainer blood tubes (red top) [BD367820]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 mL serum-only Vacutainer blood tube (red top) [BD366703]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10 mL serum transport tube (red screw top)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10 mL urine transport tubes (green screw top)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fecal collection tube (brown top)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 mL fecal collection tube (white top)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.5 mL plastic cryogenic hair collection tube (orange screw top)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 mL plastic cryogenic toenail collection tube (blue screw top)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>ANTECH SHIPMENT PACKAGE</th>
<th>Large Labeled Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Antech Diagnostics shipping box (11” × 7.25” × 2.75”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Antech Diagnostics requisition form [1 page with carbonless copy]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Antech Diagnostics zip-closure bag (10” × 6”)</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>BIOREPOSITORY SHIPMENT PACKAGE</th>
<th>Small Labeled White Box</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biorepository shipping box (5.5” × 5.75” × 2.25”)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shipment inventory form [Fisher BioServices] [1 page]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biohazard zip-closure bag (9” × 8”)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paper towel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Styrofoam shipping container (5” × 2” × 3.5”)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>MARS VETERINARY PACKAGE</th>
<th>White Box</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mars Sample Collection and Shipment Kit*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please open the kit and remove the 2 mL EDTA Vacutainer blood tube before sample collection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>STUDY INFORMATION &amp; SHIPPING SUPPLIES</th>
<th>Plastic Sleeve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Baseline Veterinary Questionnaire</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FedEx Shipping Labels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Expanded Billable Stamp Labeled “HOLD FOR PICKUP: ANTECH Diagnostics”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>US Airbill Labeled “Laboratory Services—Fisher BioServices” [with plastic pouch]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Baseline Veterinary Sample Kit
Collection and Shipping Instructions

Morris Animal Foundation
Golden Retriever Lifetime Study
Sample Collection Procedures

URINE COLLECTION
Collect a minimum of 10 mL of urine via free catch or cystocentesis.

A transfer pipette is provided for your convenience to

- Place a minimum of 5 mL of urine into the Antech urine tube green top; no bar code
  - Verify the information on the label (no bar code) and print the date on the label.

- Place a minimum of 5 mL of urine into the biorepository urine tube green top; bar code: URINE 094XXXXX3012

TOENAIL TRIMMING COLLECTION
Collect 5–10 toenail trimmings from the dog.

- Place the toenail trimmings into the biorepository 2 mL plastic cryogenic tube blue screw top; bar code: NAIL 094XXXXX5012
**BLOOD COLLECTION**

Blood samples should be collected using the Vacutainer blood collection system included in this sample kit. For instructions on how to use the Vacutainer blood collection system, see Appendix 1 (located on page 10 of this booklet). You may use either of the following:

- **The butterfly catheter attached to the Vacutainer needle holder, using a cephalic vein or lateral saphenous vein**

**OR**

- **The straight needle attached to the Vacutainer needle holder, using a jugular vein**

![Image of blood collection tubes]

If there are complications and you are not able to obtain all the blood required in one visit, ALL blood samples will have to be redrawn during a follow-up visit using replacement supplies. To request replacement supplies, please call the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

Using the Vacutainer holder and either the butterfly or straight needle provided, draw blood in the following order:

1. **Fill the 3 mL EDTA* Antech tube**
   - **purple top; no bar code**
   - *Verify the information on the label (no bar code) and print the date on the label.*

2. **Fill the 10 mL EDTA* biorepository tube**
   - **purple top; bar code: EDTA 094XXXXXX1012**

3. **Fill the 2 mL EDTA* Mars Veterinary tube**
   - **purple top; 10-digit bar code**

4. **Fill the four 10 mL serum tubes**
   - **red tops; no bar codes**

*To prevent clotting, **immediately** invert the EDTA tubes several times to mix the blood with the anticoagulant.*

If you have any questions, please contact us at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647) | 3
**Serum Isolation**

Allow the four serum tubes (red tops) to clot for at least 45 minutes and then centrifuge per your clinic’s normal protocol (we recommend 1100–1300 RCF for 10 minutes).

After centrifugation, remove the Vacutainer cap from each of the four serum tubes (red tops) and the 3 mL transfer pipette provided (DO NOT POUR), then transfer the serum as follows:

- Place 3 mL of serum into the 3 mL Antech serum tube. The black line on the left side of the tube label indicates the appropriate fill volume. **red top; no bar code**
  - Verify the information on the label (no bar code) and print the date on the label.

- Place 10 mL of serum into the 10 mL biorepository serum transport vial **red screw top; bar code: SERUM 094XXXXXX2012**

If additional serum is needed to achieve the required volumes, try re-centrifuging the blood remaining in the tubes.

**Fecal Collection**

If the owner did not bring the dog’s fecal sample to the visit, please obtain a sample from the patient during the visit.

Transfer a marble-sized sample (approximately 1 g) of feces into each of the following:

- 30 mL Antech fecal collection tube **white top; no bar code**
  - Verify the information on the label (no bar code) and print the date on the label.

- Biorepository fecal collection tube **brown top; bar code: FECAL 094XXXXXX6012**

**Hair Collection**

Cut a lock of hair ≈1/4” in diameter (about the diameter of a wooden pencil) and a minimum of 2” long as close to the root as possible.*

- Place the lock of hair into the 3.5 mL biorepository tube **orange screw top; bar code: HAIR 094XXXXXX4012**

* Please ask the owner for the preferred collection site.

Proceed to shipping instructions on the next page.
Shipping Instructions

All samples must be collected and shipped the same day.

PLACING A SERVICE CALL FOR FEDEX SHIPMENT(S)

Place a service call to FedEx directly at 800.463.3339. Let them know you have packages for pickup and tell them that the shipping cost is being billed to Antech Diagnostics and Fisher BioServices with a “Billable Stamp.” Antech and Fisher BioServices will also be covering the costs for the biohazard shipping fees. If your clinic is inadvertently charged any fees, please contact the study team.
**BIOREPOSITORY SHIPMENT**

Fill out the form titled "Shipment Inventory Form (Fisher BioServices)—Golden Retriever Lifetime Study" and include the patient information, collection date, collection times, sample shipment inventory and any optional comments.

- Place the following three samples into the Styrofoam shipping container:
  - 5 mL of urine—**10 mL green-top tube**
  - 10 mL of EDTA blood—**purple-top tube**
  - At least 10 mL of serum—**red-top tube**

- Close the Styrofoam shipping container and place it inside the zip-closure Lab-Loc Biohazard bag. Also place the following five items inside the zip-closure Lab-Loc Biohazard bag:
  - Fecal sample tube—**brown-top tube**
  - Nails cryogenic tube—**blue-top tube**
  - Hair cryogenic tube—**orange-top tube**
  - Absorbent paper towel
  - Shipping inventory form

- Place the zip-closure Lab-Loc Biohazard bag inside the biorepository shipping box.

- Seal the biorepository shipping box with one of the provided tape strips (from the front of the plastic sleeve).

- Place the biorepository box inside one of the provided FedEx Clinical Paks and seal the envelope.

- On the FedEx air shipment bill labeled “FedEx Express US Airbill,” complete the required “From” section. Retain the top copy for your records. Place the shipment bill inside the provided pouch and seal the pouch. Peel the backing from the pouch and affix it to the indicated location on the FedEx Clinical Pak.
ANTECH DIAGNOSTICS SHIPMENT

Verify all four tubes (no bar codes) are properly filled and labeled, including the date. Place the fecal (white top), 3 mL serum (red top), 3 mL EDTA (purple top) and 5 mL urine (green top) tubes in the Antech zip-closure bag.

- In the top header of the Antech Diagnostics requisition form, provide the following information: your clinic name, address, phone number, fax number and email.
- Complete the information (doctor, date, client name, pet name, species, breed and age) in the upper right corner of the form.
- All laboratory tests are ordered with code 87007; this is a no-charge study code, so you must use this requisition form and verify that the study code is preprinted on the form. Failure to do so may result in charges to your clinic. No additional tests may be run with this order.
- Retain the bottom copy of the form for your records.

Package the samples for shipment to Antech via FedEx as follows:

- Place the completed top copy of the Antech Diagnostics requisition form into the Antech zip-closure bag (which should already contain the necessary samples).
- Place the zip-closure bag inside the Antech Diagnostics shipping box and seal the box with one of the provided tape strips (from the front of the plastic sleeve).
- Place the box into one of the provided FedEx Clinical Paks and seal the envelope.
- On the right side of the FedEx Expanded Billable Stamp labeled ANTECH DIAGNOSTICS OLVA SORT OPS, provide your name, phone number and account #22725-7; then peel the right side of the label and affix it to the indicated location on the FedEx Clinical Pak. Retain the left portion of the label for your records in the event that your shipment requires tracking. See page 5 for additional guidance on placing a service call for pickup.

If you fail to use the provided requisition form, your clinic will not receive the lab results.
MARS WISDOM PANEL BOX SHIPMENT

1. Your clinic will not receive the Mars test results back.

2. Write the dog’s six digit (094-XXXXXX) study identification number on the 2mL EDTA tube.

3. Place the 2 mL EDTA tube (purple top) into the flip-top shipping tube.
   - Make sure the gauze paper is still inside this tube.
   - Snap the cap tightly and set the tube into the reservoir tray of the test kit box.
   - Place the Blood Sample Collection form on top of the reservoir tray.

4. Peel the internal protective covering to expose the adhesive and seal the box.

5. Place the Priority Mail return service label on the test kit box.

6. Ship the postage-paid test kit box to Mars Veterinary via the U.S. Postal Service. The blood can be shipped at room temperature.
Entering Required Information on the Study Website

INITIAL BASELINE SCREENING EXAMINATION

Don’t forget! Please collect the information from your patient’s examination and the Antech Diagnostics lab results and log on at https://secure.CanineLifetimeHealth.org/secure to complete the health examination form for your patient. You will have the option to print a hard copy of this report once it is completed.

ADDITIONAL STUDY REMINDERS

All other veterinary appointments for this dog (outside of the annual study visits) will require completion of an online Additional Veterinary Visit form. This additional form will be found by logging on to your veterinarian user account on the study website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email the study team at grdogs@CanineLifetimeHealth.org or call toll-free at 855.4GR.DOGS (855.447.3647).

We are here to help you!
**Appendix 1**

**BUTTERFLY COLLECTION NEEDLE**

1. Check to ensure that the female luer adapter is securely attached to the male luer adapter and securely attached to the holder.

2. Remove the needle sheath and, while holding the wing, perform venipuncture according to your facility’s established procedures. Then fill the required number of blood tubes [see Blood Collection, page 3].

3. Withdraw the blood collection set.

4. Discard both the needle and the holder (as one unit) into your sharps container.

**ECLIPSE STANDARD COLLECTION NEEDLE**

1. Holding both the pink safety shield and the colored needle cap, twist and remove the white needle cap.

2. While firmly holding the pink safety shield and the colored needle cap, screw the holder onto the needle until it fits securely and the needle is fully seated onto the holder.

3. Gently position the pink safety shield straight back toward the holder. Twist and pull the colored needle cap straight off.

4. Perform venipuncture according to your facility’s established procedures and fill the required number of blood tubes [see Blood Collection, page 3].

5. Withdraw the blood collection set.

6. Discard both the needle and the holder (as one unit) into your sharps container.
Who Is Morris Animal Foundation?

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. The Foundation is a global leader in funding scientific studies for companion animals, horses and wildlife. Since its founding in 1948, Morris Animal Foundation has invested more than $92 million toward 2,300 studies that have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments, preventions and cures for animals. Learn more at www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

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Mars Veterinary