

ANTAGENE HISTIO BLOOD DRAW FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q. When will I receive the tests I ordered?

A. You will NOT receive anything by mail for the Antagene Histiocytic Sarcoma (HS) Risk Test/Clinic. The Clinic requires a blood sample for dogs 3+ months old – to be drawn in person at the clinic on Wednesday, April 5th OR drawn by your own vet* and hand-delivered to the Clinic on April 5th; cheek swabs accepted for pups under 3 months.**

*If hand carrying blood sample(s) to the Specialty, it is very important you read the Home Instructions on the Online Store before scheduling an appointment at your vet.

**Contact Julie Jackson at rrbernese@gmail.com for more details.

Q. Are free tests still available?

A. Yes, there is no charge to submit a limited number of samples from healthy dogs over the age of 10 and/or dogs currently affected with HS. Choose "Research Sample" from the dropdown menu.

Q. Where do I find the required paperwork for the Clinic?

A. Links to all required paperwork and fillable forms are posted to the Online Store HS Risk test home page. **Forms MUST BE PRE-FILLED prior to the Specialty.**

https://www.bmdca-store.com/Histiocytic-Sarcoma-Blood-Draw_c_90.html

Q. Do I need to sign/submit the Antagene Memorandum of Agreement if I have signed/submitted it previously?

A. No, Antagene only requires one signed Agreement on file per owner.

Q. Since the forms are fillable, can I just type my signature and email the completed forms?

A. No, Antagene requires all forms be printed and signed with a wet signature.

Q. There are four pedigree choices available in Berner-Garde; which one should I use?

A. Print the 4-generation horizontal pedigree for each dog, even if those being tested are littermates.

Q. When will I receive the results?

A. Antagene will email the results to your veterinarian and the email address on the order (owner or breeder) within a couple weeks of receipt of the samples in France. Note that shipping times can vary.

Q. Do I need to add the results to Berner-Garde?

A. No, your dog will automatically be noted as "tested" in Berner-Garde; the resulting index (A, B or C) will be stored but not publicly displayed. (See Berner-Garde website for more information about database policies)

Q. How do I access the Histiocytic Sarcoma Index Mating Selection (HSIMS) breeding tool once I have the results? Is it easy to add my dog(s)?

A. A detailed overview and instructions can be found here: <https://www.bmdca-store.com/assets/images/2023%20Antagene%20HSIMS%20Tool.pdf>

Q. Can the co-owner of my dog also be granted access to the HSIMS tool?

A. Unfortunately no. Antagene only grants owner access to one owner/breeder per dog. So, it's important to put the name of the person on the forms, that will be using HSIMS.

Q. Why are my dog's results marked as "Non-Authenticated"?

A. Antagene's authentication standards require that blood samples be drawn by a veterinarian, and the Sampling Certificate be affixed with a wet signature and veterinarian's corporate stamp; the latter is a common item in Europe but not in North America. Results submitted without an official stamp of a licensed veterinarian will be marked "Non-Authenticated." Results with this designation are completely valid and can still use the HSIMS breeding tool; the designation simply means the sample(s) did not meet Antagene's authentication standards (like OFA adding NOPI – no personal identification – on certificates without permanent ID.)

The remainder of this FAQ is for those not attending the in-person Clinic OR preferring to hand-deliver blood sample(s) drawn by their own vet:

Q. I am not able to attend the Specialty. Can I make arrangements to ship samples to the Clinic?

A. Unfortunately, no. All sample(s) drawn by personal veterinarians must be hand-delivered to the Clinic on April 5th by someone attending the National Specialty.

Q. What date should the blood be drawn?

A. On/after March 29th. See Home Instructions *BEFORE* your vet appointment for important information about how to properly store/transport your sample(s) to the Specialty.

Q. Is there a specific vial that needs to be used?

A. Yes, EDTA Lavender top tube. (see Home Instructions)

Q. What if my vet's office does not have a stamp?

A. **All Sampling Certificates *MUST BE* signed by the vet/person collecting sample and should (wherever possible) also be stamped by the vet's office.** Results submitted without a vet signature/stamp will be marked "Non-Authenticated." (See Q&A at top of page for more info.)

Please direct any other questions to Julie Jackson at rrbernese@gmail.com

Thank you very much for participating in this important on-going research on Histiocytic Sarcoma in the Bernese Mountain Dog.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The CNRS Canine Genetics Team in Rennes (France) asks that you update health info for each tested dog, including diagnosis of cancer, including pathology report with type of cancer (if available), and age and cause of death. Include the dog's histio test certificate # and dog name to Dr. Benoit Hedan at benoit.hedan@univ-rennes1.fr

On behalf of the BMDCA,

Susan Henderson
Online Store Manager