

Dog DNA Test Solves Parentage Problems

WestCore Genetics in Spearfish, S. Dak., provides dog owners with a confidential DNA testing service to determine puppy parentage. Because WestCore is associated with Black Hills State University, it's a non-profit organization that provides the service "at cost."

There seems to be good demand for the testing, according to Associate Director Cynthia Anderson.

"We're pleasantly surprised - we've had quite a steady flow of requests, and have only advertised twice in a couple of small breeding magazines. The demand has come from breeders wanting to be sure of puppy parentage for the registration paperwork."

Anderson says the breeders often think they know who they believe the stud dog is, but there can be times when more than one potential father exists.

"In most cases, the breeder knows exactly which dogs their female has been exposed to, so the determination of paternity is very straightforward. However, if they don't know who the potential studs are, we can tell the breeder which dogs are definitely not the fa-

ther," Anderson explains.

It's also possible for one litter of pups to have two different fathers, and genetic testing is the only way to determine which pup has which father.

Clients wishing to paternity test their dogs simply contact WestCore and request a sampling packet. After consultation, one of two types of sampling kits is then sent to the customer. Samples must be taken from the puppies, mother and both potential fathers.

The sampling packet contains a small dental brush, which is used to scrape cheek cells from the inside of the dog's mouth. It's important that this be done prior to feeding the dog, or two hours after feeding. This ensures that the sample doesn't contain dog food remnants, which can interfere with the sample extraction.

Once your dog's genotype is in the lab's database, there's no need to have it tested again if that dog becomes the mother or a sire, and you're in need of paternity testing of her/his puppies.

Current pricing is \$25 per dog with every



Technician takes a swab of saliva from dog for DNA testing.

fifth dog in the same submission tested free of charge. In the event a dog can't be genotyped, the money paid for that sample's test will be refunded.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, WestCore (Western South Dakota DNA Core

Facility), Canine Paternity Testing, Jonas Hall, Room 110, Black Hills State University, 1200 University St., Unit 9053, Spearfish, S. Dak. 57799 (ph 605 642-6854; fax 605 642-6762; cynthiaanderson@bhsu.edu).

Heavy-Duty Toboggan Seats 7 Adults

This home-built toboggan seats 7 adults comfortably, but has provided thrills for as many as 9 at one time. Bill Vogel Jr. of Bowmanville, Ontario says the 10-ft. long plastic toboggan took only one short afternoon to build, yet its performance has exceeded their expectations.

"We belong to a fair-sized youth group and also have a pretty big toboggan hill, so we wanted something that would be suitable for teenagers and adults," Vogel explains. "My dad works at a welding fabrication plant and they install plastic dump truck box liners. My dad brought home some 24-in. wide scraps."

The black plastic was 3/4-in. thick, so a carpenter friend used a router to make 10 grooves (each 1/2-in. deep and wide) in the bottom, from front to back. The grooves make the toboggan travel straight down the hill.

"Then we took a torch and heated up the plastic to curve up the front edge. We held the 1 1/2-ft. curved section in place until it hardened, and then took some light-duty chain and bolted it from the curved edge to the bottom of the toboggan," says Vogel, who put a wood strip on the front and back edge. "Lastly, we used 1/2-in. wide nylon strapping to make hand holds by bolting down a series of loops on each side."

Upon testing, the toboggan worked far better than they thought it would. Because there was room for more people, the added weight made it go much faster than other toboggans

they had used.

"The only problem was, when we would hit bumps, people were hurting themselves with sore backs and bums," he says. "So we took it to an upholstery place down the road and they made a nice thick foam pad with a soft vinyl cover on it."

Vogel says his family and the youth group have been using the toboggan for about six years now, and it's "been a hit with everybody." It has also proved to be extremely durable.

"The only drawback is that it's a big heavy thing - it weighs 50 to 60 pounds," he says. "One person can pull it up on foot, but it's a big chore. Instead, we use a snowmobile to pull it up the hill. There's an eyebolt on the front for clipping a nylon rope to."

To add to the winter fun at their toboggan/ski hill, the family has an old school bus parked at the bottom of the hill for shelter. They took the bench seats out and installed a wood stove.

"We have a bunch of armchairs in there that we got cheap from auction sales, and a couple of tables," he says. "That's our ski chalet where we can watch the others while we warm up."

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Home-built plastic toboggan is made from 3/4-in. thick plastic that's curled up on front.



A carpenter friend used a router to make 10 grooves in the bottom of sled, from front to back. The family uses an old school bus parked at the bottom of a hill for shelter. They took the bench seats out and installed furniture and a wood stove.

"2-Seater" Makes Show-Going Fun

When Dale Lemmerman and Carlo Shefveld go to antique tractor and engine shows, they do so in style, riding on a two-seat, 2-wheeled trailer pulled behind a restored walk-behind garden tractor. Both riders sit on metal tractor seats.

"It draws quite a bit of attention wherever we go," says Shefveld.

They found the 1945 Bready garden tractor at a junkyard. The tractor originally was designed to pull implements such as a disk, single bottom moldboard plow, and cultivator, with the driver walking behind the implement.

The engine was worn out so they replaced it with a Wisconsin 2-cyl., 6 hp engine off an old cement mixer. The original wheel rims were rusted out so they replaced them with 15-in. car wheels. They cut out the inside part

of the rims and welded on three big metal tabs that bolt onto the tractor's single axle. They built the 2-wheeled trailer using the wheels and rear axle off an old riding mower. They made their own brake band, which mounts inside an oil filter wrench. To use the brakes, the driver uses the heel of his foot to push down on a handle located on a foot peg.

An acceleration lever and a clutch lever mount on the tractor handlebars. They replaced the tractor's original rope start with an electric starter off a Mercury outboard motor. The starter is activated by pulling on a lever.

"We had to put a ring gear on the Wisconsin engine. The starter goes into the ring gear and turns it over," explains Shefveld. A small battery located behind the engine provides starting power. If the driver wants, he



"It draws quite a bit of attention wherever we go," says Dale Lemmerman and Carlo Shefveld, who ride on a two-seat, 2-wheeled trailer pulled behind a restored walk-behind garden tractor. Both riders sit on metal tractor seats.

can ring a bell (off an old streetcar) by pushing with the heel of his foot on a lever.

"If it looks like rain we can quickly put up an umbrella that mounts on a metal tube between the two riders," notes Shefveld.

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