

# Dry Blood Spot Collection Protocol

The Dry Blood Spot (DBS) technique provides a simple way for collecting, shipping, and storing blood samples for serological testing. Because of the extremely low volume of blood required, samples can be obtained from live animals. Supporting the use of DBS sample collection is another example of Inotiv's continuing efforts to improve animal welfare and promote the 3Rs.

## MATERIALS REQUIRED

DBS does not require any specialized instruments, centrifuges, pipettes or vials. Inotiv supplies, **free of charge**, the following materials:

- DBS cards (non-irradiated)
- Desiccant
- Plastic shipping bag

## SAMPLE COLLECTION

Drops of whole blood are applied to the sample area of the card. After air-drying, the card is placed in a sample bag together with the desiccant and submitted to our lab via normal mail. No refrigeration or sample preparation, such as centrifugation, is needed.

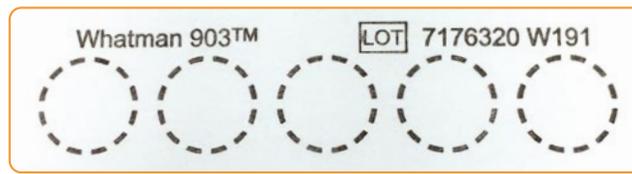
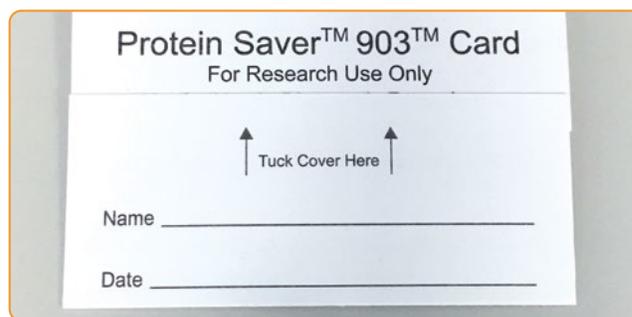
- *Ante-mortem* blood samples can be obtained from various locations, including heart, saphenous vein and other suitable sites
- One drop of blood can be spotted directly on a DBS card, placing the filter paper on the drop

- If the blood sample is taken by a capillary tube or by syringe, spot one drop (25µl) directly onto the circle printed on the card. The blood sample should be at least 0.7mm in diameter.
- In case blood samples in separate circles coalesce, the samples cannot be used
- Please note: 2 drops for mice, 4 drops for rats, hamsters and rabbits
- After sampling, leave the card to air dry for a minimum of 1 minute
- Secure the card using the tab
- Once collected, samples can be stored at 4°C until shipping

## SAMPLE LABELING

It's important that the sample identification meets the references provided on the submission form, therefore;

- Complete the information on the DBS Card, including customer information and sample identification
- Provide unique numbers to the individual disk





## SAMPLE SHIPMENT

Samples are stable for at least 30 days at room temperature.

- Dry blood is inert and inactive.
- Place the cards with desiccant inside the bags (max of 4 cards per bag)
- Make sure the submission form is filled out including indicating for which agents samples should be tested
- Put the bag(s) in a padded envelope, including the submission form, and ship this at ambient temperature to one of the labs listed below by courier or in case of urgency by overnight courier
- It's advisable to pre-announce your shipment by sending our lab a short email. We can then acknowledge receipt of the samples
- Serology results will be communicated to the customer after a maximum of 4 working days from receipt of samples

To request free of charge DBS Cards, desiccant and plastic shipping bags, please contact your local account manager or either of the following Inotiv Laboratory facilities:

### UK: Customer Services

Dodgeford Lane, Belton  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire, LE12 9TE  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 1530 222123  
Email: RMS-UK-Technical-services@inotivco.com

### EU Continent: Health Monitoring Lab

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