1. Pull (do not cut) hair from the tail switch, not tail head. Pull hair in the opposite direction from which the hair is laying. This results in less breakage than pulling straight out from the tail.

2. Make sure hair is free of fecal material and dirt.

3. Roots must be clearly visible. Approximately 30 hair roots are needed. For animals with finer hair, a minimum of 50 to 60 hairs is desired. For animals younger than three months, blood is recommended since hair roots will likely not be visible.

4. Open the collector and peel back the plastic cover. Insert the root end of hairs in the middle of the collector. Seal the plastic cover over the hair and then close the collector cover tab.

5. Trim excess hair extending from the collector. Write animal ID and other information in the spaces provided.

6. Properly record animal IDs on the collector cards and correctly enter that information on your testing order form to ensure you are matching the right DNA to the right animal.
Two to three drops of blood are needed on the collector portion of the card. This can be collected from anywhere on the animal. Two locations for easy-to-find blood vessels are the ear and the underside of the tail.

1. Appropriately restrain the animal. Locate a blood vessel, visually or by palpation. Clean the area so the sample is not contaminated with dirt or manure. Use a clean needle or lancet for every animal.

2. Blood can also be sampled with a syringe or blood tube from the vein on the underside of the tail. This may be easier than sampling blood from an ear vein that is covered with long, thick hair.

3. Collect two to three drops of blood on the collector portion of the collection card by allowing the blood to drip or squirt onto the card. Do not wipe the needle, ear or tail on the collection card. Discard the needle in an appropriate disposal container.

4. Before placing blood drops on blood cards, write an accurate customer name and animal ID in the spaces provided. Let the cards sit open and air dry before closing cover flap.
1. Remove a TSU punch from the packaging. Punches should be assembled as one piece; if they have come apart, reassemble. Open the tube retainer at the base of the applicator by pushing the retainer clip.

2. Insert the punch into the applicator. Release the clip to lock punch into the device. Carefully squeeze the applicator handles together, guiding the punch tip into place if necessary. When the gun bolt rests flush against the red plastic clip, release the handle.

3. Remove the red plastic clip by pulling it outward. Be careful as the metal cutter above the clip is very sharp. Ensure the applicator is loaded with an unused punch (if the red plunger is visible, the punch is used and should be replaced with one that is unused).

4. Slide the applicator over the animal’s ear and position the metal cutter one inch from the edge of the ear, making sure to avoid any obvious veins or ridges. Squeeze handles together to take a sample and then release to free the ear. Try to do this in one swift, fluid motion.

5. Remove the punch from the applicator and check that sampling has been successful. If not, discard the sample and proceed with a new punch. Remove the used cutter from the applicator by pulling the handles apart. Discard carefully as the cutter is very sharp.