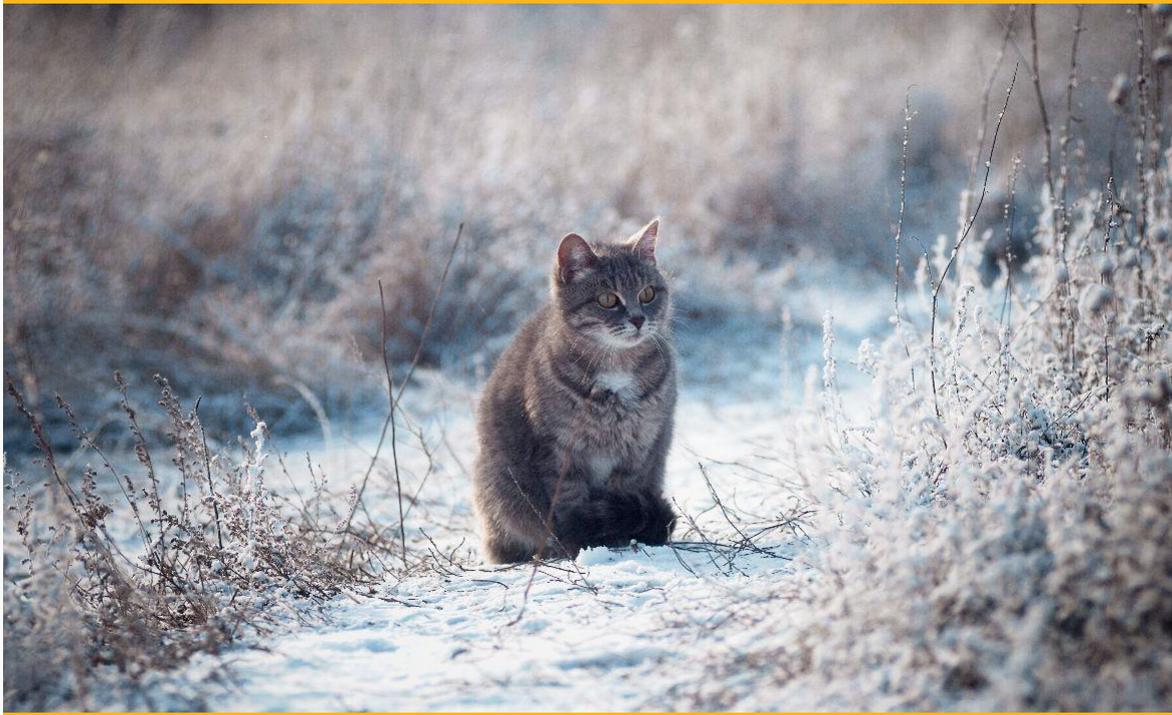




Cat Genetics Newsletter



Welcome to the January 2021 edition of the Newsletter.

It has been a while since we brought you the last Cat Genetics Newsletter after an incredibly challenging year in 2020 for everyone. We have been very busy behind the scenes working to maintain our service whilst also keeping our staff safe. In this edition we update you on changes we have made to our service due to Brexit and the end of the transition period on the 31st December 2020. We also provide a brief update on some other work we have carried out in the last year and want to reassure that we are still running the Cat Genetics testing service, though it may take a little longer to report results or answer queries at this time.

We want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has used our Cat Genetics testing service over the past year and hope you continue to use our service going forward. Please do send us feedback at catgenetics@langfordvets.co.uk as we strive to make sure we offer the best service to you as our valued clients.

We are open for business in 2021 despite the challenges!



We have faced many challenges over the last year, but we have managed to overcome most of these to continue running the Cat Genetics testing service throughout the pandemic and hope this continues in 2021. Our laboratory uses similar equipment and reagents to those used in SARS-CoV2 testing laboratories. This created an opportunity for us to support the testing effort by loaning some of our equipment to the NHS in 2020 and adapting our methods to allow us to continue our service. We are proud to have been able to contribute to the SARS-CoV2 testing effort in this way.

We also continue to meet challenges with getting reagents, plasticware and PPE for our lab staff as these are rightly prioritised for SARS-CoV2 testing. The knock-on effect is that there is a slight increase in our turnaround time for some of the Cat Genetics results. Our staff work tirelessly to provide the Cat Genetics service; we all would like to thank you for your continued patience and positive feedback, it really makes a difference to us.

Covid-19 has had further implications for us this year as it has for many of you with the inability to hold cat shows. We have been a regular at the GCCF Supreme Cat Show for 10 years now and it is a fantastic chance for us to have a chat with some of you, share the latest news and hand out swabs. We hope the show will be back soon and we will be there to meet you all.

Changes to Sample Submission in Jan 2021

With the end of the Brexit transition period on the 31st December 2020, it has been necessary to introduce a few changes to our sample submission process. If you are sending samples within the UK, please continue to post them using our freepost return envelopes or labels. If you are submitting samples from EU member states or Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man and the Channel Isles please note that you need to include a copy of the APHA facilitation letter and inventory found [here](#):



[Submitting Samples from outside the UK](#)

We can only accept buccal swabs and blood samples from a few non-EU countries as per our APHA import licence (Australia, Belarus, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and USA). To send samples from these countries please follow the guidance under 'Submissions from outside the EU' in the link above. If you are based in a country not listed and would like to use our service get in touch and we can investigate extending our import licence to accommodate this.

Genetics Sampling Policy

We often get asked what our policy is for buccal swabs as it is never guaranteed that we will be able to get a result from this type of sample. This is because we require a good quality DNA sample in order to obtain a reliable result for a genetic test. Sometimes the DNA sample we get from a buccal swab is low level i.e. there were too few cheek cells on the swab or the DNA has degraded. In this case we will carry out further testing and may request breeders/owners to send in a new swab or a blood sample. The paragraphs below sets out the process we follow.



Failure of first swab

Where the first swab fails we will test a second swab from the same cat if one is available. If only one swab was sent in, the result will be reported as "New swab required" on the certificate. In this instance, please reference the first lab number and mark the submission "re-swab" when sending in the second swab as this will ensure there isn't a further charge. You can if you wish, send a blood sample taken by a vet rather than a second swab as this will almost guarantee we will be able to get a result.

For swabs with intermediate numbers of cheek cells we will repeat the genetic testing free of charge as part of our quality control and if it passes we will report the result together with a comment on the certificate saying "Please note: The original sample contained low levels of cat DNA, but by repeating the test and performing extra work we are confident in the reported result(s). Please visit our website or contact us for details of how to take a good quality mouth swab. Extra tests will require another swab to be submitted".

Failure of second swab

If the second swab also gives a low level of DNA, we will request a blood sample taken by a vet, this will be represented by the text "New sample required" as the test result. The blood sample will be processed for the same test(s) that were initially requested free of charge. If further swabs are submitted rather than a blood sample after the result is reported as "New sample required", any tests requested will be charged at the standard rate. For more information please see our web page:

[Genetic Sampling](#)

We do acknowledge that we are seeing postal delays due to limited Royal Mail service in some areas of the UK and issues with customs due to Brexit which may be exacerbating issues with the quality of DNA on the swabs we receive. We are hopeful things will improve soon. For information and a guide on sampling please see the page 'How to swab your cat' linked below. We recommend that clients submitting samples from outside the UK, send two swabs with the initial submission.

[How to Swab Your Cat](#)

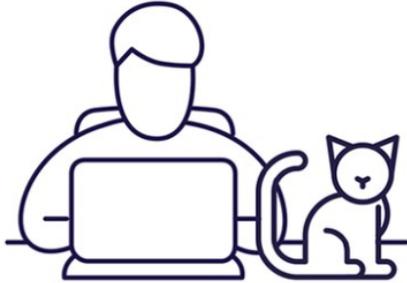
Retirement of Dr Chris Helps in August 2020

Many of you will have had contact with Dr Chris Helps over the years through emails, advice calls and cat shows. He set up the Cat Genetics testing service in 2003 and it has grown to the service it is today under his leadership driven by his passion for Veterinary Molecular Genetics. The service is now led by Dr Pip Lait, who worked with Chris several years ago when the service was in its infancy and has recently returned to work for Langford Vets as the Head of the Molecular Diagnostic Unit. We wish Chris all the best for his retirement and thank him for his dedication to the advancement of feline genetic research and testing over the years.



Submit Samples easily with our improved visual journey

Choose one of the following options:



I am a breeder/owner submitting swabs for cat genetic testing



My vet needs to submit my swabs for cat genetic testing

Some ICC negative registers and some GCCF active registers require mouth swabs to be taken by a vet who confirms the cat's identity by its microchip number.

We're pleased to have updated our visual journey for clients using our website to submit samples. This means we have redesigned our 'Submitting a Sample' guide page with a clear and easy to follow set of steps on how to submit samples to our team. With a focus on imagery, we aim to make the experience as accessible as possible whether you are a breeder, owner, or vet, and wherever you are based. The page walks through every step of the process, from requesting swabs to receiving your results, and provides links to any forms that need to be filled and any resources to provide necessary information.

[See our redesigned guide for submitting samples](#)

You will find a lot of useful information on the Cat Genetic Testing Service under the breeder pages of our website

[Visit the cat genetics website](#)

For anything you can't find, or any additional questions or advice please feel free to contact our friendly team:

Telephone: 0117394 0510 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

Email: catgenetics@langfordvets.co.uk

For more information on the cat genetic tests we run please visit our website www.catgenetics.co.uk or email catgenetics@langfordvets.co.uk



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Langford Vets is proud to be a part of the University of Bristol.

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