

# Avian Feather DNA Sample Collection Make Your Own Kit at Home

## What You Need

- (1) Small Plastic Bag or Envelope- Each bird will need to go into a separate bag/envelope.
- Sanitized Tweezers
- Rubbing Alcohol & Cotton Ball / Swab
- (1) Printed Avian DNA Sample Submission Form- Can be downloaded from <https://dnacenter.com/testing-pets-vets/bird-dna-testing/bird-feather-diy-collection-kit/>

**CAUTION:** To prevent cross-contamination, avoid touching the ends of the feather shafts where the follicle is located. If you are collecting samples from more than one bird, you should sanitize the tweezers with alcohol and wash your hands thoroughly between each collection.

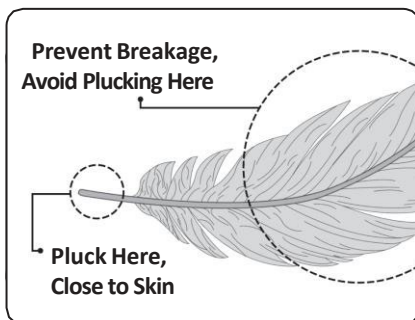
**PLEASE NOTE:** We are unable to test “immature” feathers (down, pin feathers, blood feathers, or feathers with the waxy sheath still present)- Feathers must have an intact follicle at the end of the feather shaft, this is what is needed for DNA extraction. We are unable to use any other feathers except those that have been freshly plucked from the chest or breast area.

## Collection Procedure

### 1. Label Each Plastic Bag / Envelope to be Used

Before you collect each DNA sample, label the bag / envelope with:

- Submitter's / Owner's Name
- Bird's species (Sun Conure, Senegal Parrot, etc.) Please do not write "Conure" or "Parrot," as our lab will need the specific species. **\*\* It is important to note that we cannot test Emu, Ostrich, any bird in the ratite family, or Geese.**
- Bird's ID (Name or Band Number)



### 2. Pluck Chest Feathers

With the bird gently restrained, use the tweezers to pluck 5 chest feathers (8 for smaller birds). Grab the base of the feather shaft close to the bird's chest. Pluck one feather at a time. **The plucked feathers will need to have a follicle at the end. This follicle contains the DNA needed for testing.**

### 3. Place Feathers in the Labeled Bag or Envelope

Place the feathers in the bag / envelope that was labeled in Step 1. Avoid touching the follicle end of the feather sample. Each bag/envelope should contain feather samples from only one bird.

### 4. Mail to DDC Veterinary

Complete the Avian DNA sample submission form with your information (Note: an email address is required for receiving results), information about each bird collected, and payment details. Place the feather sample, sample submission form, and payment (if applicable) into a mailing envelope and mail to:

DDC Veterinary  
One DDC Way  
Fairfield, OH 45014 USA

Questions? Contact DDC Veterinary at 1-800-625-0874 or email [contact@vetdnacenter.com](mailto:contact@vetdnacenter.com)