I wish to participate in the TICA & Wisdom Health “State of the Cat” study. The signed statement below is validation of my pledge to return the test and complete the survey in return for a discount of 30% off retail price.

I, ______________________________________________________ (name) of the ___________________ TICA Region, will return a DNA sample(s) from my TICA registered cat(s) of ___________________ (breed) within 14 days of receipt of the test kit(s). I will complete the online health and behavior survey within 14 days of receiving the email from Wisdom Health.

I am interested in participating with the purchase of up to _______ (number) discounted tests.

____________________________________________________ (signature) ________________ (date)

Please return this form to TICA & Wisdom Health’s Advisory Committee via email to TICAgeneticstudy@gmail.com. A coupon will be emailed back to you within 5 days (usually 2) that will allow the purchase of up to 10 test kits at the discounted price on www.Optimal-Selection.com.

FAQ

1. What if I don’t live in the US?
   a. Good news! You can still participate! Tests will be purchased from www.MyCatDNA.com instead but the process and test offering is still the same.
   b. Please check your country’s laws related to the shipment of biological items.
   c. The test kit includes a postage page envelope, but certain countries have additional requirements; it is your responsibility to investigate these to avoid your sample not getting to the lab.

2. What if my cat won’t cooperate?
   a. You can practice with a cotton swab in advance, but most cats are tolerant of the process of obtaining a DNA sample.
   b. You can also take your cat and the kit to your veterinarian to obtain the sample.

3. How long does it take to get the results?
   a. All samples will be reported upon within 3 - 4 weeks from the date they are received by Wisdom Health

4. What does the test cover?
a. The test will provide you with the results for over 40+ disease mutations, 20+ physical traits, genetic diversity and, if you choose to activate it, access to the breeder tool.

b. To see a sample result go to this page: https://os-cats.genoscoper.com/crm/index.html#os/animals/KI17167/pass/summary

5. Can the results be transferred to my breed registry?

a. DNA profiling is the primary type of DNA testing offered by breed registries in the US. DNA profiling is for the purpose of permanent identification of a cat (similar to a microchip) and for parentage testing; it does not screen for genetic diseases or genetic diversity. DNA profiling typically uses 9 microsatellite markers (often called STRs) to identify each cat, which are a different type of DNA marker than the one used in the Optimal Selection Feline DNA test. Because different markers are used, in significantly greater numbers, and at different locations than those used in DNA profiling, results are not equivalent or transferrable. While Optimal Selection was not designed for DNA profiling for the purposes of verifying parentage or cat identity, it does identify every cat tested as a unique and recognizable individual.

6. Can I test kittens?

a. Yes! Kittens can be tested, as their DNA results do not change with age. However, care must be taken that the dam’s or littermates’ DNA does not contaminate the sample. The process of nursing seeds the kitten’s mouth with DNA from the dam’s skin and the cells in the dam’s milk, so we do not recommend testing kittens who are still nursing. However, as soon as kittens are weaned, they can be safely tested following the usual guidelines. Optimal Selection feline profiles and accompanying results are designed to be easily shared or transferred to new owners when needed, free of charge, so an entire litter can be listed with Optimal Selection before they leave their birth home.

7. What breeds do you test for?

a. All breeds can be tested using an Optimal Selection DNA test and receive results about individual genetic health. However, certain breed statistics will not become available until a minimum number of individuals of that breed have been tested, in order to provide statistically significant population results.

8. Are results shared with registries or other breeders?

a. No. Wisdom Health takes client confidentiality seriously and does not share testing information. Identities of submitting owners, as well as individual testing results, are not visible to anyone but the submitting owner, unless the owner chooses to share that information.

9. Can I submit semen from a deceased sire?

a. Yes. The Optimal Selection Feline Genetic Breeding Analysis test is typically performed on cheek swab DNA samples. However, semen samples are also an
excellent source of DNA if the cat is not available for swabbing. Note that a small additional laboratory processing fee is required for semen samples.

Please contact Customer Service for assistance or questions regarding the test info@wisdomhealth.com or 888-597-3883 and they would be happy to help you.

You can also call Anthony Hutcherson at 301-751-7474 or send him an email at TICAgeneticstudy@gmail.com