



DNA Profile Testing
Global Australian Labradoodle Association
GALA

DNA Testing for Dog Identification and Parentage

GALA Information for Breeder Members

DNA testing provides a genetic identification profile for a dog—similar to a fingerprint. It is used to confirm a dog's identity and, when needed, verify parentage. Each GALA breeding dog must have a DNA test by a GALA-approved laboratory.

DNA testing is not:

- A disease or health test
- A trait or coat color test
- A breed identification test

Accepted DNA testing methods

GALA accepts both STR and SNP DNA profiles for dog identification.

If parentage verification is required, the puppy and both parents must be tested using the same type of DNA test and the same laboratory. This is essential because:

- STR and SNP tests examine different genetic markers
- Laboratories do not share or cross-reference DNA databases

Understanding STR and SNP testing

STR (Short Tandem Repeat) testing

- Examines repeating DNA patterns
- Is highly effective for identifying close or recent genetic relationships
- Is commonly used in human forensic identification

SNP (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism) testing

- Examines single-letter variations within the DNA sequence

- Is well suited for identifying broader genetic relationships over longer timeframes
- Is slightly less precise for detecting very recent genetic changes

In both methods, a higher number of matching genetic markers indicates a stronger likelihood of relatedness.

GALA guidance on parentage verification

Both STR and SNP testing are considered reliable and acceptable for parentage verification. For accurate results:

- All dogs involved must be tested using the same testing method, and
- All tests must be performed by the same laboratory

How DNA Testing Supports Ethical Breeding

DNA testing supports ethical breeding by helping ensure accurate identification, verified parentage, and reliable pedigrees. When used appropriately, it strengthens transparency, accountability, and trust within the breeding community.

DNA testing is a supporting tool—not a measure of health, quality, or breed purity on its own. Used alongside health testing, responsible record keeping, and informed breeding decisions, it helps protect the long-term integrity of the breed and supports responsible stewardship.

Key takeaway

DNA testing is a valuable tool for confirming identity and parentage when used correctly. Consistency in test type and laboratory is essential for accurate results. DNA testing does not determine breed composition or health status. DNA testing does protect the integrity of the ALD breed and its breeders.