

Company Develops Dog Breed Test

Dog breed ID technology will be unveiled at Global Pet Expo in February.

Posted: January 26, 2007, 5 a.m. EST

A human and animal health life sciences company says it is launching one of the first commercial, DNA-based diagnostic tests that can genetically determine the breed composition of dogs.

A MetaMorphix Inc. subsidiary, MMI Genomics is launching Canine Heritage, a diagnostic test that uses DNA technology to certify up to 38 major breeds. The test requires only a cheek swab sample be mailed to the company for analysis. Results will be returned to owners in four to six weeks.

Once the test is available, owners of mixed-breeds and dogs without breed registration papers could take advantage of the technology to determine pedigree. The identification of parentage is no longer a prerequisite.

MMI Genomics says it will introduce the test kit at the Global Pet Expo, taking place Feb. 22 to 24 in Orlando, Fla. A list of the 38 identifiable breeds as well as more information on the new product will be available at the company's booth and on the company's website.

"The first question always asked of mixed breed dog owners is, 'What kind of dog is that?' Now, owners need not guess and can say with certainty," MetaMorphix Co-Chairman and CEO Ed Quattlebaum said in a statement.

"In addition to better understanding your pet's behavior, your dog's breed analysis can enable you to work more closely with your veterinarian to develop a lifetime health and wellness program," Quattlebaum said.

For more information on MetaMorphix, visit www.metamorphixinc.com