

# DNA CORNER

**Paul Duffey**

## Directions for Finding Your Exact Mitochondrial DNA Results From Sorenson

After you send in your swab and pedigree, wait 6-18 months to get an e-mail from Sorenson saying that they have added new data to the website database.

1. Search Sorenson mitochondrial database by surname using your mother's maiden surname.
2. You will find your pedigree at the top of the results.
3. A pink box denotes a match of your result with the reference standard.
4. A purple box indicates you do not match the reference standard.
5. The GACT letters across the top are the reference standard results, not yours.
6. Write down a list of the numbers (markers) and the corresponding letters, only if the letters are in bold type.
7. If the letter is faint, that means your result is blank for that number.
8. Click on Search again at the bottom.
9. For the numbers with a purple box, you need to try changing the letter for that numbers. This is trial and error.
10. It helps to keep a list of what you have tried unsuccessfully so you don't have to repeat.
11. For the numbers where the letter was faint, don't enter that number in the search panel.
12. For the numbers with a pink box and a bold letter, enter that number and letter in the search panel. You enter the last 3 numbers of the marker and one capital letter.
13. If a number has a .1 or .2 after it, that is the box to the right of the number in the search panel.
14. If after you leave a box, it turns red, you have done something wrong, such as entering it in the wrong HVR column.
15. When you finish all the numbers, click on search.
16. Look to see which purple boxes are now pink, and record the proper letter or blank entry on your list.
17. For the boxes still purple, click on search again, and change the letter just on the numbers that were still purple.
18. When all the boxes are pink, print it out, because that is your result.
19. Go to Mitosearch, and enter your results in your new user account and search this database.

Note: Sorenson limits the number of searches you can do in a day. It took me 4 different days to finally understand their system and get it right. With these directions, I hope you can do it in one day!