

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Hannah Hays

Project Number

J1313

Project Title

Which Is Cleaner, Dog Spit or Human Spit?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

This science fair project is to determine if dog spit is cleaner than human spit. I have always been interested to find the answer because I kiss my dog and my parents hate this.

Methods/Materials

My experiment consisted of culturing my dog's and my saliva. I performed my experiment a total of six times utilizing rubber gloves, sterile swabs and innoculating loops, culture plates and an incubator. The cultures were grown aerobically and the results were read at 48 hours and the results were compared.

Results

The first three cultures showed that we each grew Streptococcus and Staphylococcus although I had a heavier growth of each organism. The second set of cultures showed that we each grew >100 of normal flora although my dog had more normal growth.

Conclusions/Discussion

My conclusion, through my background research and experimental results, tends to support my hypothesis that dog mouths are cleaner than human mouths. The tests were not strongly conclusive, however, and further testing would be good. I now see why laboratories and companies perform MANY experiments.

Summary Statement

This project is to determine which is cleaner: dog spit or human spit.

Help Received

Mother helped type report; Used incubator at Modoc Medical Center Lab under supervision of Larry Manzer, MS, CLS, and he interpreted the culture results; Father drove me to District Science Fair and Mrs. Sally Clark, my science teacher, for her expertise and guidance and lastly to my dog, Ruger.