

The Norn genome

A “Generation One” Norn (from an egg in the Hatchery) consists of approximately 790 genes. Unlike human beings, who carry two of each gene (one from the mother, and one from the father), a Norn carries only one of each gene. Some of these genes are specific to a certain sex, so in a male Norn, the female genes will be *carried*, but not actually *used*. The “Generation One” Norns have 12 female specific genes, and 8 male specific genes.

When Norns breed in the wild, the genomes from the mother and father are laid out next to each other, and genetic material from one parent is exchanged with material from the other. The points along the genome where the exchanges take place, and the number of genes exchanged are random and occasionally there will be “crossover errors” which could result in individual genes being lost or duplicated. This process generates two new genomes, one of which is male, and the other is female. During natural births, the choice of which of these to use is random, whilst a Genetics Kit birth leaves the choice to you. The result of this is that a new Norn egg inherits a combination of genes from the father and mother together with some potential mutations and errors.

Norns have 16 different gene types, each containing varying amounts of genetic information. Genes are broken down into four basic categories:

1. **Brain Gene.** Definition of brain lobes, neural dynamics and dendrite properties.
2. **Biochemistry Genes.** Chemical receptors, emitters, reactions, half-life and initial concentrations.
3. **Creature Genes.** Stimulus, species, appearance, poses, gaits, instincts and pigments.
4. **Organ Genes.** Organs contain biochemistry components such as reactions, emitters and receptors.

The Genetics Kit allows all of these Genes to be viewed, and most can be edited. In addition, genes can also be either added to the genome, or removed entirely. Click [here](#) for a summary of the different gene types.