

COLLECTING GENETIC SAMPLES

**Collect genetic samples from red fox, wolves, and wolverine.
If in doubt, take a picture and collect it!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN
GENETIC SAMPLE COLLECTION PACKET

Scat

- Identification: If it looks like canine and is pinky size or smaller (less than ½ inch diameter), it is likely to be fox and should be collected. If it is very large (greater than 1¼ inch diameter) it is likely to be wolf. Wolverine scat is difficult to distinguish and should be collected only when accompanied by tracks or other sign.
- Take a picture, be sure to include a ruler for scale.
- Put the entire scat in a paper bag. Be careful not to touch the scat because it may contain parasites.
- Label the bag with the date, location (lat/long from the GPS), whether the scat is wet or dry, likely species, and your initials.
- Place the paper bag in a plastic bag if needed to transport it.
- As soon as feasible, take the paper bag out of the plastic bag so the scat can dry.
- Scat samples need to be kept cool and dark. When you get to the office, put the bag in the box in the garage.

Urine and blood

- Take a picture of the associated tracks or sign that make you think it is from a target species. Be sure to include a ruler or something else for scale.
- Scoop up the most concentrated section of yellow or red in the with the test tube.

- Place the test tube in an envelope and label the envelope with what it is (urine or blood), the date, location (lat/long from the GPS), likely species, and your initials.
- Keep as cold as possible in the field. When you get to the office, put the test tube in the freezer.

Hair

- Take a picture of the associated tracks or sign that make you think it is from a target species. Be sure to include a ruler or something else for scale.
- Label an envelope with the date, location (lat/long from the GPS), likely species, and your initials.
- Use sterilized tweezers to put the hair in the labeled envelope. To sterilize tweezers, hold them under a flame for a couple seconds.
- The DNA comes from the hair follicle, so be sure to include the follicle end. If the sample is embedded in something like frozen snow, don't pull it out with force, as that may strip off the follicle. Instead, scoop up the snow and hair together.
- When you get back to the office, put the envelope in a container with desiccant.

Labeling samples

- All samples should be labeled with: date, lat/long, date, species guess, your initials. If you have more than one sample of the same type, number them 1, 2, etc
- If it is scat, also record whether it is wet or dry (fresh or old).

If in doubt, take a picture and collect it!