



Field Protocol

Scat Collection for Genetic Analysis

1

Scat Sample Storage Techniques

Scat sample can be stored using any of the following three methods.

A tube containing either Silica Desiccant or Ethanol or DET Buffer should be prepared

A

Using Silica Desiccant



Fill the silica desiccant up to one-third of the tube's height.

Put a layer of clean Kimwipe paper above the silica beads to separate desiccant from scat sample

Kimwipe paper

Silica Desiccant

B

Using Ethanol



Fill the stube with 95% Ethanol upto one-third of the tube's height

95% Ethanol

C

Using DET Buffer



Fill the stube with DET Buffer upto one-third of the tube's height

DET Buffer

DET Buffer Composition:
20% DMSO,
0.25 M sodium-EDTA,
NaCl to saturation,
pH 7.5



2

Once signs are located, including scat for potential target scat, mark the collection tube with the following information:

- Location initial(s) for example "M" for Mustang
- Serial number for example 001, so sample from - Mustang can be labeled as M001
- Date of collection-Month/Day/Year
- Initial of sample collector- for example "TL" for Tsering Lama



M001 01/29/2011 TL



3

A Record Sheet should be maintained containing the following information

S. No.	Sample Code	GPS Coordinate		Presence of Sign				Photo Taken (Y/N)
		Latitude	Longitude	Scratch	Pugmark	Urine	Others	

Mold Contamination	Comment on Sample Quality				Rough Estimate of the Age of the Scat	Name of the Collector	
	Consistency		Type of Substrate	Odor			Color
	Dry	Moist					

Coding System

Type of Substrate:

DMS = dry mineral soil

MMS = moist mineral soil

IS = in snow

V = vegetation

Odor:

SO = strong odor

ALO = a little odor

NO = no odor

Color:

D = dark

DG= dark grey

LG = light grey

W = whitish

Rough Estimate of the Age of the Scat

F = fresh (< 2 weeks old)

MO = medium old (2 weeks-1.5 month old)

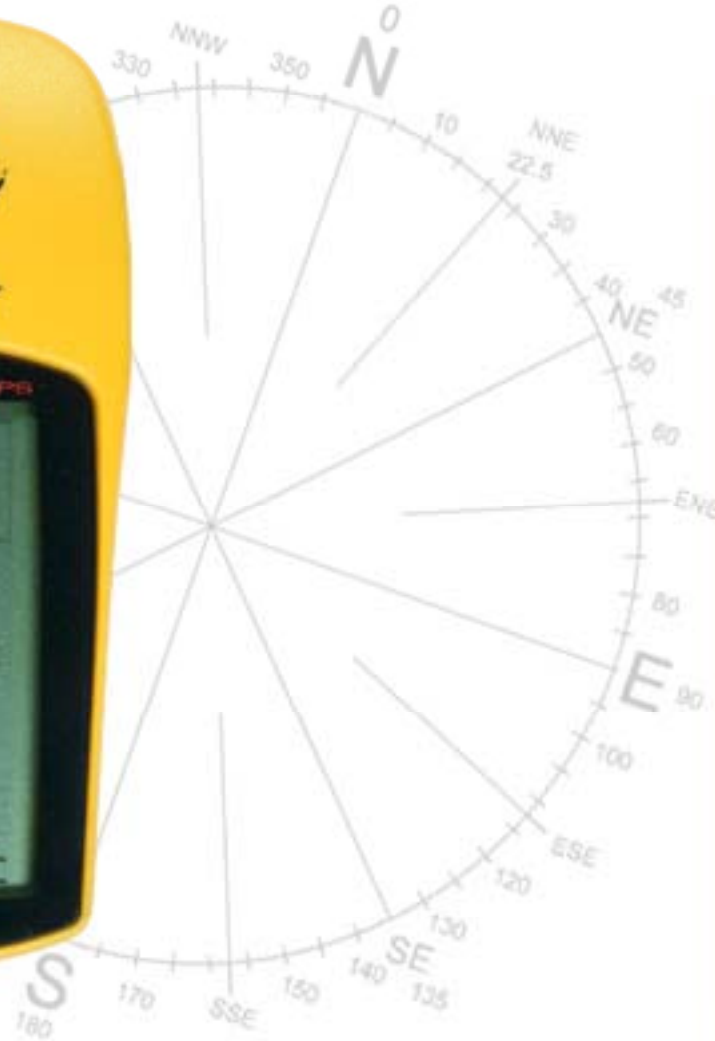
O = Old (1.5 – 3 months old)

VO = very old (> 3 months old)



4

Take GPS location:
Longitude/Latitude/Elevation



5

Take pictures of available signs such as pugmarks, scrapes etc with labeled collection tube as markers.



6

Prepare some twigs for sample collection.



7

Animal scat have tons of parasites, some of these parasites can even infect humans. So careful scat collection is recommended.

The scat collector should take the following precautions

- Do not make a direct contact between the scat sample and your skin.
- Always wear a dust mask and a pair of latex hand-gloves before you handle the scat sample.
- Use a pair of twigs to handle the scat and NOT YOUR FINGERS.
- Always change the hand gloves to handle the next scat sample. This can also avoid sample-to-sample contamination risk.



8

Collect the sample from top and side location of the scat because these parts are mostly dry and least affected by molds

If scat sample is large, cut about 1 inch long scat sample and drop into collection vial (with silica desiccant or other preservatives) with help of twig.



9

Close the lid tightly.



10

Remove latex glove and put it in a plastic bag for proper disposal later
(DO NOT USE SAME LATEX GLOVE FOR MORE THAN ONE SAMPLE COLLECTION)

