



DATA CODES AND DEFINITIONS FOR “SCAT DATA SHEET”

1. **Date** = Date the sample was collected. *Example: 12/01/07*
2. **Sample ID** = Provide a unique sample identification. For example, scats collected in Ladakh, India were given sample ID#: LD01 through LD32. *Example: LD01*
3. **Species** = Record the name of the species that you believe deposited the scat based on the size, shape, smell, and associated sign. *Example: Snow leopard*
4. **Diamtr./Segmnt. = Diameter/Segmentation** = Record the maximum diameter of the scat and the segmentation pattern. *Example: 2.1 cm/Segmented*
5. **Scat Age** = Record estimate of the relative age of the scat (See the categories below). *Example: 1*
6. **Sign and Age** = Record all sign (See the categories below) that the scat is close to and the age of each sign (See the categories below). Also record the number and age (in parentheses) of each sign. *Example: 3 SC (2), 1 SC (0), 1 UR (2)*
7. **Site Info** = Description of the geographic feature for the location where the scat is found. *Example: Ridge*
8. **Nearest Landmark** = A close well-known geographic location that is relatively close to where the scat was collected. This important so that if the GPS coordinates the general area where this scat was collected is known. *For example: Dorj's gher*
9. **GPS Location/Elevation** = Record GPS location and save in GPS unit. *Example: 43 04 890, 101 59 758/2300m*
10. **Comments** = Record any additional information that may be useful. This includes parasites in scats, nearby snare-traps, etc. Also include which other scats were in the vicinity. *Example: along river, had horse hair, there was a dead horse near by, next to LD31*

DEFINITIONS

Type of Sign:

Scrape (felid only)	SC	Scrape made by felid
Scratch (canid only)	SR	Scratch made by canid
Feces (scat)	FE	Scat or dropping
Urine	UR	Urination mark
Scent Spray	SS	Scent mark
Claw rake	CL	Claw mark on tree or rock left by felid
Pugmark	PU	Track impression

Age Categories for Sign:

Scrape

Very Old	0	Extensive weathering and disintegration, scrape features poorly defined, often with vegetation growth in the depression and on the pile (age at least 3 to 6 months).
Old	1	Moderate weathering and disintegration, with the scrape showing a rounded form, occasionally with vegetation in the depression or on the pile (age several months or more).
Fresh	2	Slight weathering. Scrape has a well-defined form with “sharp” edges, is easily recognizable, and has no new vegetation growing in the scrape depression or pile (age 1 to 4 weeks).
Very Fresh	3	Little or no weathering has occurred, so that the scrape has a very sharp and “clean” form, is very easily recognizable, and has no vegetation in its depression or pile. Sand or gravelly material may cover some vegetation, causing it to “bend-down”. Other ephemeral sign such as tracks or urine may be observed, while scats deposited at the same time are obviously still fresh or very fresh (age less than 1 week).

Pugmark

Old	0	Pugmark is very poorly defined, with an obviously “weathered” appearance (more than 2 weeks old).
Fresh	1	Pugmark has sharply defined edges and shape (several days, but less than one week old).
Very Fresh	2	Pugmark is very fresh, showing fine surface details and having a very sharp edge (made less than 24 hours previously).

Feces

Old	0	Scat with a hard, dull surface and dry interior – some can be mottled and cracked (several weeks to several months of age).
Fresh	1	Scat is odoriferous and “fresh-looking”, with a glossy, sheen inside (more than 2 days but less than 10 days of age).
Very Fresh	2	Scat is still wet outside and moist inside (no older than 2 days).

Scent-Sprayed Rocks

None	0	No detectable odor (more than 3 months old).
Slight	1	Odor is just detectable.
Moderate	2	Odor is readily detectable.
Strong	3	Odor is unmistakable.
Very Strong	4	Odor is very strong (can be detected from 25#cm or more away; less than several weeks old).

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