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## DNA SAMPLING PROTOCOL – SCAT

### NOTES

- Numerous scats believed to be snow leopard are often found together on active scrape sites, collect a sample from each intact scat found at each site.
- Do not touch, disturb, or kick, etc the scat before you sample it.
- Handle samples with new gloves or rock/stick and then dispose of gloves immediately.
- Do not handle the scats with your bare hands.
- Once you collect a sample fill out “Sample Data Sheet”.
- Keep samples cool and dry and in shade.
- Transfer samples to an appropriate lab as soon as possible.

### Scat Collection

1. Prepare a new **Collection Tube with Silica Desiccant** and label it with the *Date*, *Sample ID*, and *Collector’s Name* on the side of the tube and with the sample ID on top of the cap.
2. Take the GPS location.
3. Fill out the *Sample Data Form*.
4. Put on a new pair of gloves.
5. Break off bits and pieces from the outside part of the scat including pieces not directly in the sun (from the underside sitting on the ground). Collect scat material about the size of a pinkie nail in the tube. Do not fill the rest of the tube with scat. Do not compact scat – the scat should be loose. See Figure 1 and 2 on next page for correct amount of scat to store in tube. Close the tube and put it away. If you over fill the tube it will likely not dry and lead to DNA degradation.
6. Dispose of gloves – keep used gloves away from sample tubes and new clean gloves, in a separate zip-lock bag. **ALWAYS HANDLE EACH SCAT WITH NEW GLOVES OR WITH A PIECE OF ROCK OR STICK THAT HAS NOT BEEN USED ON A PREVIOUS SCAT**

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Figure 1. Only a small amount of material from the outside of the scat should be collected. The total should be about the size of a pinkie nail.



Figure 2. The scat should be loose in the tube and there should be additional space in the top of the tube as in the tube on the left. This is important in order to keep the scat dry. The tube on the right has too much scat, leading to poor DNA storage.

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