



# Wildlife Tissue Archives

*The National Wildlife Disease Program (NWDP) was established in 2003 as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The program is a component of APHIS Wildlife Services' National Wildlife Research Center, headquartered in Fort Collins, CO.*

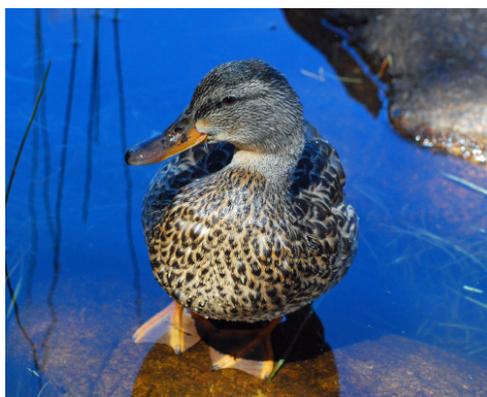
*The mission of the program is to provide a nationally coordinated system of surveillance and emergency response for diseases of concern in wildlife. To support this mission, the NWDP established the Wildlife Tissue Archives in 2005. The archives' diverse contents are derived from the Interagency Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Early Detection System for Wild Birds, routine surveillance for diseases carried by feral swine, and monitoring for plague and tularemia in wildlife. The collection is unique in its quantity of samples, diversity of species, broad geographic range, and consistent sampling effort over extended periods of time. The NWDP welcomes inquiries about using archive tissues.*

## Available Archives

The NWDP Wildlife Tissue Archives consist of three collections.

The **Avian Tissue Archive** is cooperatively administered with Colorado State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which also houses the collection on its campus in Fort Collins, CO.

The archive includes nearly 300,000 wild bird swab samples collected for highly pathogenic avian influenza surveillance in the United States from 2006 to 2011. Samples from 260 wild bird species in all 50 States and several U.S. Territories are represented. The samples are maintained at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



**Nearly 300,000 wild bird swab samples are available for research purposes.**

The **Feral Swine Serum Archive** is maintained at the NWDP headquarters and consists of serum samples collected from feral swine



**The feral swine serum archive includes approximately 16,000 samples, with several thousand added each year.**

in 36 States. Two to three thousand samples are added to the archive each year. The NWDP and various cooperators currently use the samples to monitor for nearly a dozen diseases of feral swine. Serum samples are maintained at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The **Plague and Tularemia Archive** consists of nobuto strips (whole blood on immunochromatographic paper) from 92 species of carnivores, rodents, and other mammals, as well as several bird species. The most frequently sampled species are coyotes, beaver, raccoons, skunks, and feral swine. Samples are stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . About 5,000 samples are added to the archive each year.

## Supported Project Examples

The Wildlife Tissue Archives support numerous types of studies, including emerging disease diagnosis, wildlife health studies, assay method validation, and a variety of retrospective

studies. Some recent examples include:

- **Texas A&M University**— Studying the distribution of avian bornavirus in wild birds
- **U.S. Department of Defense**— Validated portable field PCR (polymerase chain reaction) system for avian influenza detection
- **USDA Agricultural Research Service**—Studying the transfer of parasites between pasture-raised domestic pigs and feral swine

- **Arizona State University**— Studying the phylogeography of influenza A viruses in animals and humans



**The NWDP Wildlife Tissue Archives include samples from a variety of mammals, including coyotes.**

### **INQUIRE ABOUT SAMPLE AVAILABILITY AND APPLYING FOR A LOAN OF SAMPLE MATERIAL FROM THE WILDLIFE TISSUE ARCHIVES**

The NWDP welcomes inquiries about using archive tissues for studies. Requests are evaluated and prioritized based on several factors, including overlap with other studies, alignment with the program mission (surveillance and early detection), and availability. There is no charge for sample loans. We cooperate with Federal, State, and Tribal government agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations. See contact information at right.

### **Additional Information**

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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To learn more about the NWDP, please visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/nwdp](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwdp).

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