

PROGRAM ACTIVITY REPORT (PAR)



WILDLIFE TISSUE ARCHIVE

The wildlife tissue archive is growing as a result of the steady effort by NWDP disease biologists and others in Wildlife Services to collect disease surveillance samples. To help promote the use of this resource, Wildlife Services recently released an APHIS factsheet, available as a pdf file, to download or print, at [Wildlife Tissue Archives](#). The factsheet may be useful to WS employees when asked about wildlife tissue sources.

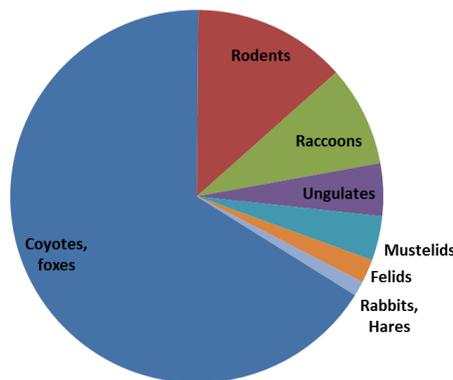
The archive consists of three collections: swab samples in viral transport media collected from birds during the Highly Pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza surveillance effort; feral swine serum; and whole blood on dried filter paper, or Nobuto Strips. Nobuto strips are collected primarily for surveillance of plague and tularemia. A recent tally of both the number of animals sampled and the number of samples loaned to researchers is provided.

The Influenza A matrix positive samples in the avian swab collection have drawn considerable interest from influenza researchers. The avian swab samples also have been used for other

Wildlife Tissue Archive Holdings and Loans		
Tissues	Holdings	Loaned
Avian Swabs	283,434	3,436
Feral Swine Serum	15,552	11,469
Nobuto Strips	22,175	915
	321,161	15,820

projects as well, such as establishing the widespread presence of avian bornavirus in waterfowl across the United States. The feral swine serum collection is used frequently to study a wide array of diseases.

Figure 1. Nobuto Collection



Perhaps the most under-utilized collection is the Nobuto strips. The Nobuto strip collection contains over 50,000 samples. About one-half of these have been accessioned into the archive (can be traced, retrieved and

loaned). The largest part of this collection was taken from coyotes. Coyotes are excellent sentinels for plague and tularemia surveillance. There are approximately 104 species represented, including monkeys, rabbits, opossums, armadillos, and a softshell turtle (Figure 1). This diverse collection of samples from across the United States, including territories, is available for a wide variety of investigations.

A NWDP staff member participated in a biorepository workshop in Charleston, South Carolina in August, sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service. The objective of the workshop was to explore current and new tools and techniques for the preserving and archiving samples collected from wildlife for health evaluations. One task of the workshop was to select and prioritize tissues which should be banked to establish baseline data that will facilitate the study of wildlife diseases and wildlife conservation efforts in the future.

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The original artwork on this page was created by the National Wildlife Disease Program's Erika Kampe and Sarah Goff