

CARCASS SWAB COLLECTION PROTOCOL
(To collect predator saliva from predated animal)

1. Collect samples within 24 hours of predation event.
2. It is important to differentiate attack wounds from scavenging. (One way to identify attack wounds is to carefully skin carcass near wounds- attack wounds will have some hemorrhaging under the skin.)
3. Carefully remove Epicentre sterile swab from its protective case using gloves. Collect saliva by swabbing an attack wound. To avoid cross-contamination, collect single swabs of individual bite marks, rather than one swab from many bites. Try to collect at least 2 swabs per carcass.
4. It is ideal to allow swab to dry for 5-10 minutes before placing swab back into its protective sheath. If this is not possible swab should be able to dry within its protective case where we have poked holes to allow air circulation. Place each swab in its own envelope labeled with a field ID. On data sheet, refer to the field ID and fill in other pertinent information (date collected, name of collector, locality information, prey species, suspected predator species, estimated time since kill, carcass condition, location on prey that swab was collected).
5. Please collect any other samples that likely contain predator saliva or blood (i.e., clippings of prey hair from around attack wound). To collect prey hair, clip hair next to skin (using razor blade or other) and collect into envelope labeled with appropriate field ID (that corresponds to field ID on the carcass swab).
6. Please send samples as soon as possible to the lab at NWRC:

National Wildlife Research Center
Attn: Toni Piaggio or Melissa Neubaum
4101 LaPorte Ave.
Ft. Collins Co 80521-2154
970-266-6142

CARCASS SWAB COLLECTION DATA SHEET

Date: _____ Sample Collected By: _____ Field ID: _____

Locality Information (i.e., UTM, Lat/Long, location description): _____

Prey species: _____ Suspect Predator Species: _____ Estimated Time Since Kill: _____

Condition of Carcass: _____

Description of Location On Prey That Swab Was Collected: _____

Additional Notes: _____

****Please send any other samples that likely contain predator saliva/blood (i.e., clippings of prey hair from around attach wound)****