**Scat Field Protocol**

*Materials:*

* *Gloves \**
* *2.0mL microcentrifuge tubes \**
* *Watman OmniSwabs \**
* *Phosphate buffered saline (PBS)*
* *Trash bag for discarded gloves and swab wrappers*

*\* = need a new one per sample*

1. Wear gloves
2. Label 2.0ml microcentrifuge tube
3. Dip Whatman OmniSwab into PBS to moisten.
4. Swab entire surface of scat, then eject swab into the labeled 2.0ml tube and close.
5. Change gloves to avoid cross contamination
6. Open tube at end of day and air-dry overnight (CRITICAL = Sample will rot if not dried)
7. Freeze the next morning (ALSO CRITICAL)
8. Deliver to Cramer Fish Science as soon as possible. DNA in scat is degrading even in the freezer so immediate DNA extraction will greatly improve success.

(Freezing whole scat is not recommended but we will accept samples collected in this manner. We will swab samples at time of arrival to best preserve DNA).