

DNA Sampling Protocol for Bat Guano

For Residents



Thank you for your assistance with the “Got Bats?” project which aims to learn more about bats in B.C. and to promote their conservation. As part of this initiative, we are identifying bat species around the province by collecting their guano (droppings). A wildlife genetics laboratory is able to extract enough bat DNA from the guano to identify the bat species. Collecting this DNA sample is particularly important where roost counts are being done (see www.bcbats.ca for more information).

You will need:

- ✓ Disposable gloves (e.g. latex gloves that can be purchased at a pharmacy) or clean tweezers
- ✓ Small **paper** envelope (such as a coin envelope)
- ✓ Cotton ball
- ✓ Pen or pencil

How to collect a sample:

- Select guano that is dry, in solid pellets, and has had minimal exposure to sun and water.
- Avoid touching guano directly as human DNA can contaminate the sample. Wear gloves, use tweezers, or scoop guano into coin envelope. Clean tweezers or change gloves between locations if you are taking the guano from more than one location.
- **NEW!** Select ONE intact pellet and carefully nest it in a cotton ball. Place this inside a paper envelope. The cotton will prevent the pellet from being crushed. If you have multiple roost sites (e.g. more than one occupied bat-house) or an attic or building with hundreds of bats, use a different cotton ball and envelope for each site (e.g. one envelope per bat-house, one envelope at each end of the attic).
- Avoid putting samples into a plastic bag – they need air flow. If you have many small envelopes, put them all into a larger paper envelope to store and mail.
- If you cannot mail the samples within 14 days, air dry them for 1- 2 weeks then put them in a Ziploc bag and store them in the freezer.

Label envelopes with:

- Your name
- Date you collected the guano
- Site name (e.g. your address and specific location like “north side of attic”)
- UTM coordinates if possible (from GPS unit or phone)

Send samples to your local Bat Program, or:

BC Community Bat Program

158 McDonald Place

Penticton, BC

V2A 1L8

Questions? Email info@bcbats.ca, T. 1-855-922-2287 ext.20

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