

# Wild Dog Sample Collection – compiled by Janet Edwards

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## 1. Blood samples

Fill 2x 5ml EDTA (purple top) tubes with blood.

Has to be stored in a **freezer** (or at worst case in a fridge – but only for a few days).

- Best sample type to collect.

## 2. Tissue samples

Take a 5-10mm by 5mm slice of tissue from the ear. Easiest slice is the double flap part in the ear as it doesn't alter the look of the dog. Store in a plastic sample container and **freeze**.

Or store in **95+ % ethanol** – enough to cover the tissue slice. Keep **cool** (fridge if possible) and out of sunlight.

- Best sample type to collect.

## 3. Cheek swabs

Using a swab, rub very hard inside the cheek of the wild dog. It helps if you hold your hand on the other side of the cheek you are swabbing to create a firmer surface to rub.

Wave swab around to air dry it before putting it back in the sheath.

Store in **fridge**. Can only be stored for a **few days** at maximum.

## 4. Hair samples

Locate the coarsest hair you can find – generally the tail hair. Visually inspect the hair you have pulled out and check for intact roots. Collect at least 20 strands of dry hair and store in an envelope or plastic container and keep in a **dark, dry place (cupboard)**.

If possible pluck 1 or 2 whiskers too as they have great roots to work with.

- Worst sample type to collect.
- Tail hair is the coarsest hair on a wild dog and honestly the only hair worth taking.

## 5. Faeces

Fresh faeces is best as the DNA degrades very fast especially as wild dogs tend to defecate in areas that receive direct sunlight.

Using a ziplock sandwich bag collect as much of the faeces as possible. Try to avoid sand, gravel and grass as they tend to add a lot of “junk” to extractions. **Freeze ASAP**.

One can also store faeces in **95+ % ethanol** in a container and keep **cool** (fridge if possible).

**NB:** For faeces collection, often the most important part of the faeces is the outer layer as this is most likely to contain the wild dogs **epithelial tissue cells** so if the whole faeces is not possible to collect (as is often the case) make sure to collect the most solid parts first.

**\*\*All containers have to be plastic if the sample is to be frozen\*\***