

Fox Scat Collection Protocol

Scat identification

- Fox scats are a similar size to small dogs, however they tend to be thinner/elongated with a 'curved whip tail' at the end.
- Fox scats will contain hair, vegetation, seeds and bone, whereas domestic dog scats tend to be a uniform consistency without obvious plant or animal material.
- Fox scats can be collected from fresh to dry, decomposed scats (e.g. dust) are not useful.



Scat collection

- Do not touch any scat, wear disposable gloves or use a tool.
- Scoop or place the scat into a paper envelope/bag.
- Prior to collecting the scat note on the paper bag the: Date, Location (GPS or e.g. Cook Park near Grand Pde. & Barton St. Monterey), name & email, status of the scat (e.g. fresh).
- Dry the scat after collection by placing the paper bag in a sunny location (e.g. for several hours or a couple of days).

Scat delivery

- Pack the labelled paper bag/envelope containing the dried scat within an airtight plastic bag (clip-lock x2) or container.

Note packages may not be delivered if there is an odour or leakage, it is important to ensure these important samples are dried and then packed airtight.

- Place the airtight scat (double bagged or container) within an envelope and post it to: Dr John Martin

Royal Botanic Garden
Mrs Macquaries Rd
Sydney 2000 NSW

For further information: john.martin@environment.nsw.gov.au

Fox scat collection kits can be provided (disposable glove, paper envelope, two zip-lock plastic bags and a postage envelope) upon request. Fox scat collection kits are also easily improvised.

