

# **Poop Scooping Procedure**

Removing animal and food waste from the habitats is an important daily chore. Every day the catch area must be cleaned and the entire habitat should be poop scooped at least once a week. During this task you should be observing anything unusual such as: irregular feces; problems with the doghouses, fencing or dig guard; holes going under fences or at risk of collapse; broken or damaged fence poles/trees. This time in the habitat also allows you to observe the animals. Please alert staff if any animals are acting out of character.

- ***Check the Weekly Chore Log in the volunteer office.*** This will tell you which habitats need full poop scoops for the week.
- ***Get tools from under the deck.*** Buckets, shovels and trash bags are stored underneath the deck by the stairs. Only use the yellow buckets for poop!
- ***Secure the trash bag in the bucket with a bungee cord*** to keep the bag in the bucket and prevent flapping that may attract the animals' attention.
- ***Work in pairs whenever possible and stay together!*** This is critical for both human and animal safety. Spreading out makes it difficult to get help quickly when needed and may cause the animals to become stressed or feel trapped.
- ***If working alone, let staff know where you are.***
- ***Make sure someone always has a radio inside the habitat.*** This is a safety concern! If you have left your radio outside and something happens, you cannot call for help. If you don't trust that you can keep the radio out of wolf jaws, ask someone else to carry it or do not enter the habitat.
- ***Never leave your tools unattended!*** Buckets, tools, or anything unattended or unmonitored may become an irretrievable wolf toy.
- ***Know where the animals are at all times.***
- ***Habitats must be cleaned thoroughly.*** This means going from fence to fence and bottom to top. Keep the spacing between people and/or passes to no greater than your arm span. "Stand and scan" is NOT an effective cleaning method!
- ***Don't be afraid of bushes and trees!*** Just because you might not want to walk under a tree or into a bush does not mean the wolves feel the same way. In fact, many of them find these areas to be ideal places to poop.
- ***Record the color and consistency of each individual stool sample you find.*** There are laminated record sheets you can bring with you to help you keep track.

## **USDA Standard § 3.1(c)(3)**

"Hard surfaces with which the dogs .. come in contact with must be spot-cleaned daily and sanitized in accordance with § 3.11(b) ... Floors made of dirt, absorbent bedding, sand, gravel, grass or other similar material must be raked or spot-cleaned with sufficient frequency to ensure all animals the freedom to avoid contact with excreta. Contaminated material must be replaced whenever this raking and spot-cleaning is not sufficient to prevent or eliminate odors, insect, pest or vermin infestation..."

## **USDA Standard § 3.11(a)**

"Excreta and food waste must be removed from the primary enclosures daily, ... to prevent soiling of the dogs ... contained in the primary enclosures, and to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests and odors."

## **USDA Standard § 3.11(b)(4)**

"Pens, runs and outdoor housing areas using materials that cannot be sanitized ... such as gravel, sand, grass, earth, or absorbent bedding, must be sanitized by removing the contaminated material as necessary to prevent odors disease, pests, insects and vermin infestation."

- ***When finished, all waste bags must be tied off and placed in the trash area.*** The trash area is located next to the Tool Shed. Place the bags in totes and **secure the lids**.
- ***Double-bag any torn or broken trash bags.***
- ***Put your tools away when done.*** You are responsible for making sure all your tools, buckets, and full waste bags are put into the proper places. Waste buckets should be stored upside down when not in use.

## **Poop Record Instructions**

The quantity, color and consistency of an animal's poop can tell a lot about how that individual is doing health-wise. Because of this we track how much of each type of stool sample is found in each habitat on a daily basis. Because there is a huge variety of stool quality, there are reference charts for both colors and consistencies for you to reference and to help standardize our reporting. Please remember that these charts indicate the most common options, and will not include every possible combination you may find.

### **Record Format**

- Findings will be recorded in an **X/Y/Z** format.
  - **X** is the number of similar stool samples found.
  - **Y** is the color reference number (found on the color wheel) of the sample.
  - **Z** is the consistency (found on the consistency scoring chart) of the sample.
- For example, if you found four brown stool samples with a normal consistency you would write 4/1/4. If you found one area of bloody diarrhea you would write 1/8/2.

### **Samples that do not Match the Reference Scores**

Not all stool sample possibilities are covered by the scoring references. Below are directions for how to record these anomalies.

- ***If you have a stool sample that is more than one color or consistency***, write down both scores separated by a dash, e.g., two samples that are both brown and white with a normal consistency would be 2/1-2/4. One sample that is brown but has both solid and liquid areas would be 1/1/1-3.5.
- ***If you cannot identify the original consistency of the sample*** (e.g., it has been stepped in, buried under snow, etc.) put a question mark for the consistency score, e.g., 2/1/?.
- ***Occasionally the wolves are given glitter*** to help staff identify which animal in a group may be having issues. If you find a sample with glitter in it, indicate this with a "G" following the consistency code, e.g., 2/1/3G.
- ***If you find something that there is no code for*** (e.g., mucus, foreign material like wood chips, grass, fabric, etc.), choose the closest reference scores and put an asterisk at the end to indicate there is an additional note associated with that particular sample. The note will be recorded separately (see Filling in the Log), e.g., you find a sample that is nothing but fur could be recorded as 1/1/5\*.

## While Poop Scooping

1. Grab the pocket-sized laminated poop record, reference sheets and **WET ERASE MARKER** from the volunteer office. Do not use permanent Sharpies or dry erase markers!
2. Before you start poop scooping a habitat, write the names of the animals in the habitat on the top of a blank laminated poop record.
3. As you walk the catch area record each unique stool sample in a new row under the "Color/Consistency" column.
4. If you find more than one pile of similar stool samples record each new sample as a tick mark in the "Quantity" column. This saves you from having repeatedly write the same code over and over again.
5. For purposes of health monitoring, it is important to delineate between catch area collections and full habitat collections; therefore, if you are doing a full habitat cleanup, draw a line on the card separating the catch area data from the habitat data.
6. Start a new sheet for each habitat and repeat steps 2 - 5.
7. If there is a particularly concerning stool, call staff over the radio for directions. You may be asked to take a picture, save a sample to be submitted for fecal analysis, or wait for staff to come check it out. If you take a picture, please email it to the Director of Animal Care.

## Transcribing Data into the Log

Catch areas provide a day-to-day picture of bowel activity while main habitats give us a week's summary. For this reason, we want to identify what was found in each section of the habitat. Each pack has their own page set up with a series of independent columns divided into three sub-columns.

1. Find the correct page for the pack you are recording information for and find the next empty column, writing the date you poop scooped at the top of that column.
  - a. If you only poop scooped the catch area, write CA next to the date
2. Referencing the correct page in your laminated poop record, begin filling in the appropriate values in the correct sub-column along the row.
  - a. **REMEMBER:** the format is Number of Samples Found/Color/Consistency.
3. Use a new row for each different stool sample you discovered.
4. For full habitats, fill in the poop that was found in the catch area first. When finished, draw a bold line underneath the last filled in row and start recording the poop found in the main habitat underneath.
5. If you have more samples types than rows available, continue into the next available column and write the same date at the top of the new column.
6. If you only poop scooped the catch area and did not find any poop, still fill in the date in the next available column and mark an X for the number, color and consistency to indicate it was poop scooped and nothing was found.
7. On the record, highlight any stool records that are outside of the normal ranges.
  - a. **Normal are colors 1 and 2 with consistencies 3.5 to 4.5.** If you have a completely white stool, a 5 consistency is also considered normal.
8. For any samples with an asterisk, highlight the row and record the note in the notes section of the record (see the recording notes section).

- If you find vomit in the habitat, please record the observation in the notes section and include what it looked like (color, texture, etc.) and what it contained (food, bones, grass, etc.).

### Recording Notes

Notes allow us to gather more information about stool samples that don't fit in with the standardized scores. Each pack has their own pages for writing notes.

- If you have a stool sample that has a note associated with it got to the notes page for the group you are recording data for.
- Skip one line below the last entry before starting a new one.
- Write the date the sample was found in the first column
- Write the sample code corresponding to the note in the "Code" column.
  - REMEMBER:** the format is *Number of Samples Found/Color/Consistency*.
  - If recording vomit, write "vomit" in the code column.
- In the "Note" column, describe what was unique about the sample. e.g., there was some fabric, possibly from a toy, in the stool.
- If there is more than one note for a particular day, repeat steps 4 and 5 for each sample needing a note.

### Habitat Poop Record - Kieran & Yuki

Date: 1/1/21 CA			Date: 1/2/21			Date: 1/2/21			Date: 1/3/21 CA			Date: 1/4/21 CA		
#	color	con	#	color	con	#	color	con	#	color	con	#	color	con
1	1	4	1	1	4	1	1-9	3.5	X	X	X	3	1	4
2	1-9	3	1	1-2	5	3	9	1.5 G				1	1	4*
			1	1	?	3	2	4.5						
			2	9	2-4									
			5	1	3.5									
			4	1	4									
			3	1	3									
			1	9	2									

### Habitat: Kieran & Yuki

Date	Code	Notes
1/2/21	3/9/1.5 G	Three samples of diarrhea had glitter in them
	Vomit	There was one large pile of vomit that consisted of fur, partially digested kibble and undigested chicken. There also appeared to be some bone fragments as well
1/4/21	1/1/4	The stool sample was mostly wood chips and pine needles