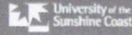


DETECTION DOGS FOR CONSERVATION

Sniffing out solutions usc.edu.au/ddc



Protocol for Koala Scat Collection:

1. Find koala/koala scat

Fresh scat is best for successful DNA extraction. Scat collected from underneath a koala, or where a koala has been recently heard maximises the chance of isolating high quality DNA.



2. Identify fresh scat

Fresh scat will have a strong eucalypt smell, a moist or dry shiny mucus coating, and a bullet-shaped appearance. Avoid collecting scat after rain events- DNA will be washed off scat surface.



3. Collect scat without contact with your skin (push it in the container with a leaf, use latex gloves, a toothpick, a stick...)

This avoids potential contamination, and loss of koala DNA from the scat.

4. Store scat in a suitable container

An egg-box wrapped in cling film (scats in each compartment), or clean Ziploc bags. Do not mix scat from different animals in one container.



5. Label and record scat information

Name, contact details, site location (address), GPS point, date, number scats collected, photograph of koala, any other information (sick animal, mum and bub...)

6. Store in freezer (-20° or below)

This will slow down the degradation rate of the DNA in the scats. Email us and we will arrange to come collect it!

Email:

Anthony.schultz@research.usc.edu.au

rcristes@usc.edu.au



Thank you, any new scat sample that yields successful koala DNA is a great addition to our knowledge!