

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN TRYING TO IDENTIFY SCAT

NOTE: DO NOT TOUCH SCAT WITH BARE HANDS

Scat is full of germs and bacteria, some of which can cause disease in humans.

Some of these diseases may be contracted by inhaling airborne particles.

Always use a tool and/or properly gloved hands and remember to stay up wind.

1. What is the size? (both length and width)
2. What is the form?
 - ▶ Is it round like a pellet?
 - ▶ Is it tubular?
 - ▶ Are the ends flat?
 - ▶ Pointed?
 - ▶ Is one end flat and the other pointed?
 - ▶ Is it smooth from one end to the other?
 - ▶ Is it segmented like a natural fibered rope?
3. Is there one dropping or multiple?
4. Are there hair or food particles in the scat? Sometimes corn, berries, seeds, and insect wings aren't completely digested.
5. When was the scat deposited – at night or during the day?
6. Is it a one-time event or does it seem to occur in the same general spot over several days?
7. What type of habitat was the scat in – woods, urban, suburban, agricultural, etc?

Color and consistency rarely help identify scat. Color is a result of the animal's diet which can easily change. Consistency changes as the older scat becomes. Animals can have diarrhea or constipation, which change consistency.

However with that said, birds, reptiles and amphibians can all have white in their scat. Snakes, particularly rodent eating snakes, deposit liquid scat with a white cap.

Identification Key to Scat

A key to typically formed droppings of selected vertebrates of Nebraska
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