

Tick Collection

Wildlife Conservation Society, Apr 2014

Permits regarding the collection and exportation of parasites vary by country. Please seek guidance from the relevant countries.

Preservation Solution (70-80% ethanol)

96% ethanol - Add 3 parts ethanol to 1 part water to make ~ 70 % ethanol solution.

Procedure

1. Collect all ticks, adult and immature, and place in 70-80% alcohol and save.
2. Label tubes with species name, ID, and date of collection, and tick location (neck, back leg, etc.).

Internal Parasite Preservation

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Preservation Solution (5% buffered formalin)

Add equal volumes of 10% buffered formalin and water to make a 5% buffered formalin solution.

Alternately, internal parasites can be preserved in alcohol:

Preservation Solution (70-80% ethanol)

96% ethanol - Add 3 parts ethanol to 1 part water to make ~ 70% ethanol solution.

Procedure

1. Place any parasites collected from feces or necropsy in 5% buffered formalin or ~ 70% alcohol using a volume of fixative solution that is 3-4 times the volume of feces.
2. Label tubes with species name, ID, and date of collection, and parasite location.