

Instructions for taking feather samples

A correct sampling is unavoidable to receive an optimal amount and quality of DNA. The following information should help you with that.

Before sampling

Pay attention to hygiene and tidiness during sampling. Make sure your hands are clean, use new and clean bags/envelopes and avoid mixing or even confusing samples.

Sample requirements (Figure 1)

At least **10 freshly extracted quills** (adhering blood is unproblematic) from the breast or shoulder area. To avoid contamination please do not touch the quill with bare fingers.

Packing of the samples (Figure 2)

For the packing of the samples envelopes, zipper bags or small folded paper bags (hereafter called sample bags) can be used. Place the extracted feathers of **one** animal in a sample bag, which should be clearly labelled, to ensure a clear allocation in the lab. Use **one** sample bag per animal! It is important that the feathers cannot fall out.



Figure 1



Figure 2: Packaging options for feather samples. left: In a zipper bag. right: In an envelope.

Dispatch

Sample bags can be dispatched uncooled in standard envelopes. Please ensure that you send the sample bags **and** the completed order form. Further information on dispatch of samples can be found on our homepage.