**Fecal Sampling Instructions**

Pet Microbiome Project – Phase II, 2021

Thank you very much for participating in our research project.

You will be provided with a *fecal collection tube* in a ziploc bag.

Steps for fecal collection:

1. Collect the fecal sample **immediately** after voiding. Do not collect a sample if you did not observe your dog defecating. We need extremely fresh samples for this research.
2. Unscrew the collection tube cap and use the attached spoon to scoop **one heaping spoonful of feces** into the collection tube.



* 1. Do not let any of the liquid in the collection tube spill.
  2. Avoid introducing any grass or dirt into the collection tube.

1. **Tighten the cap and shake to mix** the contents by inverting 10 times to create a suspension of the fecal material in the liquid. Foaming/frothing during shaking is normal.
2. Place the fecal collection tube into the Ziploc bag and **note the date and time of sample collection** on the bag.
3. Store the collection tube at **room temperature** until you have a chance to drop it off. Drop off the sample in the box inside the Small Animal Hospital entryway. Return the fecal collection tube to the VTH **within** **72 hours** of collection.