**BARC Volunteer: Information Sheet**

**What is BARC?**

BARC stands for Bag and Remove in Cymru and is an undergraduate research project based at the Cardiff University School of Biosciences, under the supervision of Prof Jo Cable. The BARC project relies on the collection of soil samples by volunteers in order to assess the impact of dog fouling throughout the UK.

**BARC aims to:**

**1)** Assess prevalence of the roundworm parasites, namely *Toxocara* spp. throughout UK.

**2)** Use soil analysis to identify areas with low and high prevelance of *Toxocara*.

**3)** Initiate anti-fouling interventions to help people to gain a better understanding of the importance of protecting the environment.

**Why we need your help?**

Sampling the UK is a tall order so we rely on the help of volunteers to collect a wide variety of soil samples. The idea is that every time you go somewhere new or go home for the holidays collect a soil sample and return it to us so that we can gain a better understanding of *Toxocara* prevalence and impact of dog fouling in as many areas as possible. The more samples we can collect the more information we will have on the effect of dog fouling across the UK.

**What you need to do?**

Find a public park or garden and collect as many soil samples as you can. Then fill out this simple questionnaire (on the other side of this page) and return with your samples. Once you have collected your samples in separate bags you can leave them in a garage or shed or even the boot of a car (so they don’t get too hot) until you can get them to us.

If you collect from more than one site make sure you keep each sample separately and fill out a questionnaire for each site. The whole process should take no longer than 30 min for each site. If you are collecting samples from a site that is not owned by you (e.g. public park or field) please make sure you have the appropriate permissions.

**What you get out of it?**

We can send you back the results of your samples so that you can see the prevalence of *Toxocara* in the areas you have sampled. This is why we have requested your name and contact details. If you do not wish to be contacted you do not need to put your name or contact details on the form. However for the purposes of the study we will need you to enter the location and date that the samples were collected.

**Questions and advice:**

Any questions or advice email Jo Cable (CableJ@cf.ac.uk) or Victoria (ThorneV@cardiff.ac.uk). If you have any concerns regarding your participation in the BARC project then please register them with BIOSIETHICS@cardiff.ac.uk.

**BARC Volunteer: Soil Sample Collection Data**

Name of person collecting samples: Date samples taken:

…………………………………………… ……………………………………………

Email address (or telephone number): **Sample Location** (as much detail as possible):

…………………………………………… ……………………………………………….

**Instructions:**

1. Take photo of site (if possible) and email to either Jo Cable (CableJ@cf.uk) or Victoria Thorne (ThorneV@cardiff.ac.uk)
2. If grass is present, lift away from soil you are sampling, remembering to replace afterwards!
3. Collect a sample of around 200g in total, into 4 separate bags (50g in each - about a trowel full)
4. Place samples in bag along with questionnaire (kept separate from soil).
5. Fill out questions below for each site (multiple samples can be taken of each site; the more the better).

**Ground Cover:** (tick what applies)

Bare soil Leaves covering Grass covering



Faeces found within 10 metres of samples Other:…………………………………………………………

**Public area/Park:**

Tick the following areas that you know are in the park:



Wooded area Sports fields Children’s play area



Short grassed area Overgrown vegetation Other:.……………………………………..

**Which of these areas would you say dominates the park?**



Wooded area Sports fields Children’s play area

Short grassed area Overgrown vegetation Other:………………………………………

**Private area/Garden:**



Is this area used by a dog/s? (your own or other) Yes No

Is this area used by a cat/s? (your own or other) Yes No

Tearoff:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Name:**  **Date:**