

# Collecting Koala Scat

Remember "L.E.S.S is Best!"



## 1 Look: Does it look like koala poo?

Koala and possum scat can look very similar but there are ways to tell them apart.



## 2 Evaluate: Where is it located & does it shine?

**Location:** Is it under a tree or under a street light? If it's under a street light & it is deposited in a neat pile it is more likely to belong to a possum. Koala scat is often found scattered around the base of trees.

**Shine:** All the koala pathogen DNA is in the shiny mucus coating on the outside. No shine = no DNA! Rain can wash away this mucus coating & make them dull. Use the sun or light on your phone to check for shine.



## 3 Smell: What does it smell like?

Does the scat smell somewhat pleasant or rather repugnant? Possum scat tends to trigger a stronger repulsive response than koala scat.



## 4 Snap: Does it snap or tear?

Koala scat tends to snap quite cleanly, where as possum scat tends to tear apart or be impossible to break open. The particles inside koala scat also tend to be much finer than possum scat.



## COLLECT & DELIVER

If you have ticked all the 'L.E.S.S. is Best' criteria you are ready to collect. Skewer your scat with a clean tooth pick and store in a clean breathable container. Contact us for a 'DNA Kit' and delivery details. If you do not have a kit or skewers on hand, paper bag or box will suffice in the interim. Also note the date and location the scat was collected.