



MATSON'S LABORATORY, LLC
est. 1969

A wildlife laboratory offering cementum aging and tetracycline biomarker screening

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**Matson's Laboratory News**  
**November 2010**  
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Matson's Lab began operating in the small Montana community of Milltown in August, 1969. Founders Gary and Judy Matson continue to operate the lab, and are collaborating in a management transition that will take place over the next 5 years. Services will continue uninterrupted using our established methods and honoring our core values.

About Us

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Our current staff numbers 7. Each has a bachelors degree or higher, and embraces the high standards of accuracy and efficiency needed for excellence of specimen processing and data accuracy. In keeping with our core values, we strive to keep our wages and salaries competitive for this hard-working and much deserving crew.



Gary  
Co-owner



Judy  
Co-owner



Lindsay  
Laboratory Manager



Pat - Laboratory  
Assistant Manager



Liz  
Laboratory Coordinator



Stacey  
Technician II



Kelly  
Technician I

**Precision**

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Until recent years, all of our lab cementum age analyses were done by Gary. Beginning in 2004, technicians expressing interest and who had been with us for more than a year received training and began to conduct analyses. Two are qualified to age teeth of a single species; a third, our most senior technician, is qualified to age 10 species.

Gary checks 10% of results for each age report, with an overall goal of 90% precision for his results

compared with technicians.' Following is a summary of our lab's precision. We're quite proud of this record, and work hard at maintaining proficiency in applying our species-specific, standardized analysis models.

For the period 1 November 2004 through 25 October 2010

Number of samples	475
Number of teeth	251,831
Number Gary checked	25,949
Percentage checked	10.3%
Percentage agreed + 0 yr.	96.2%
Percentage agreed + 1 yr.	99.4%
Average precision	96.3%
Average precision last 3 years	96.8%

Experience

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Since 1978, our lab has processed and cementum aged 1,715,669 teeth, including those of 462,739 black bear, 206,253 whitetail deer, 165,211 bobcat, 144,485 elk, 108,126 moose, and 104,312 raccoon. A full tabulation of species processed, along with the record for the oldest of each species, is on our web site.

Among the other species processed for cementum age analysis since the year 2002 were bat (108), beaver (422), fallow deer (105), feral cat (155), ferret (46), opossum (796), pig (206), polar bear (735), sea lion (264), and walrus (1038).

Process failures are rare. There have been 218 during the period December 2002 through September 2010, a failure rate of 0.03% for the 723,490 teeth processed. We attempt to obtain replacements for the failures, and process them without charge.

**Best**

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We could not have hoped for better clients than you have all been, and truly appreciate the opportunity to work with you these many years. Best wishes for the upcoming holiday season, and many more.

Please visit our web site for complete information about our services and prices

Best wishes,

Gary Matson

Quick Links...

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Our Website: [www.Matsonslab.com](http://www.Matsonslab.com)

**Contact Information**

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