

IMPORTANT:

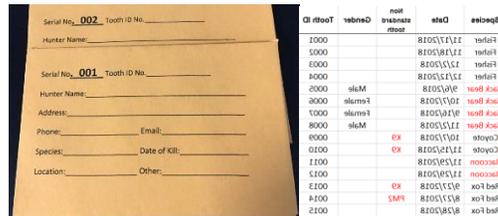
- **DO NOT** break the root tip while removing the tooth.
- **DO NOT** boil or bleach teeth. Please note on tooth envelopes if teeth are coming from a prepared skull. Boiling or bleaching a skull usually causes minimal damage to teeth as long as they remain intact, but we like to be aware in case there is damage.
- **DO NOT** include any undried soft tissue (gum tissue, muscle, hide) with the tooth.
- **DO NOT** send entire ungulate jawbones. We only need the front incisors and, as long as the incisors are intact, the molar bars are unnecessary.
- **DO NOT** package teeth or jaws in plastic. This prevents them from completely drying and leads to rot and decay.



- A ⇒ Full length tooth, ideal for processing
- B ⇒ Slight breakage at the tip, can still be processed
- C ⇒ Tooth too broken to process

The root tip portion of the tooth contains the best cementum for aging and is crucial for obtaining the most accurate age. Please preserve the full length of the tooth when extracting from the jaw.

Information and packaging



When packaging the teeth, please include pertinent information on the envelopes (ID, species, harvest date, etc.) along with a master list with all the details in list format.

Take this with you on your next hunting trip for a step-by-step guide in the field.

Extracting Your Tooth Samples



**135 WOODEN SHOE LANE
MANHATTAN, MT 59741**

Fresh Jaw Extraction

*Teeth are most easily extracted from a freshly harvested animal. These extractions can be done at home or in the field.



1. Use a sharp knife to cut down through the gum tissue on both sides of the tooth. Be very careful not to cut into the tooth root itself.
2. Use the back of the knife to gently pry the tooth forward and out of the jaw.
-An alternative method is to grasp the tooth with pliers at the base of the crown where it meets the gumline and pull firmly with a gentle twisting motion. Be careful not to grasp too hard on the crown itself, as this will result in breaking the crown and making it more difficult to extract the tooth. Also, be careful not to twist too much or you risk breaking off the root tip which is very important for aging.
3. Remove the front two teeth, which are the first incisors (I1's) for deer and other ungulates. Allow the teeth to dry inside a labeled paper envelope. If possible, please send in two teeth.

**Carnivore teeth can be extracted using the same procedure. However, carnivores have a different preferred tooth type, the premolar for bears and canine for most other carnivores.



Dry Jaw Extraction

1. Dried jaws must be soaked in hot water before the teeth can be extracted. Allow the jaw to soak until the teeth can be easily extracted. If the teeth feel difficult to extract, let them soak longer. Soaking lengths can greatly vary depending on jaw condition. Please follow these soaking instructions:

Ungulates (deer jaws and other hoofed animal jaws)

Soak jaws in water heated to **167-176 °F** (75-80 °C)

Bears and other carnivores

Soak jaws in water heated to **130-140 °F** (55-60 °C)

- To avoid potential damage to the teeth, please do not exceed these temperature ranges.
2. Grasp the tooth with pliers at the base of the crown where it meets the gumline and pull firmly with a gentle twisting motion. Be careful not to grasp too hard on the crown itself, as this will result in breaking the crown and making it more difficult to extract the tooth. Also, be careful not to twist too much or you risk breaking off the root tip which is very important for aging.
 3. Remove the correct teeth and allow them to dry inside a labeled paper envelope. If possible, please send in two teeth.

*** If you are concerned about damaging the teeth, Matson's will gladly extract the teeth for you. However, an additional fee will be charged for each jaw extraction and shipping costs will be applied if you wish the jaw returned.

