

The scoop on poop

We are hung up on dung

Polar bear poop is a valuable tool because it gives us a broad idea of what's going on inside the bear, and we can collect it without disrupting their day-to-day lives.

We are familiar with normal frequency, colour, smell, and consistency of bear excrement, so we can pretty quickly get clues about the bears' digestive health.

We regularly inspect fresh feces under a microscope to monitor for diseases and parasites.

And, if we need more information, we can dry out samples (below), dissolve them in a special solution, then use them to analyze bears' hormone levels.



Whose poos?

If we know we might have fecal samples from multiple bears in the same enclosure, we can give a bear a little bit of edible glitter as part of their diet, then look for the sparkly poop when it's time to collect samples.

