Collar Attachment Protocol

Materials

* Bat
* Collar w/gps attached
* Scissors
* Biodegradable thread
* Tweezers
* Glue

1. Ensure the bat is the correct **sex**, **age class**, and **weight**.
   1. Is the bat male or female? Try to get 1 tag per sex per site.
   2. Must be an adult
   3. Weight must be:
      1. Pteropus: >= 500g
      2. Eidolon: >= 295g
2. Ensure the correct tag for species
   1. Pteropus: solar, larger heavier tag
   2. Eidolon: non-solar, smaller lighter tag
3. Write down important information
   1. **Tag #, Bat ID**, weight, sex, location, notes

\*\*The tag ID is the number on the tag

1. Connect tag to Lotek software and prepare for deployment

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Description automatically generated

\*\*KEEP BATS > 2M APART AFTER TAGS ACTIVATED! ELSE THE TAGS CAN GET DAMAGED!

1. Size collar (2-3 people)
   1. However works best, hold bat such that it is belly-up and it’s neck is exposed
   2. Place the transmitter face up on the dorsal side of the bat and wrap the collar around its neck such that the two ends meet on the bat’s ventral side
   3. Measure the correct length for the collar by ensuring that you can slip a small finger or pencil between the collar and the bat’s neck. It is important to ensure that the collar is not too tight that it restricts movement, but not too loose that it may slip over the bats head.
   4. Remove the collar from the bat and use scissors to trim the neck portion to the correct size.
2. Attach collar (2-3 people)
   1. However works best, hold bat such that it is belly-up and it’s neck is exposed
   2. Place the transmitter face up on the dorsal side of the bat and wrap the collar around its neck such that the two ends meet on the bat’s ventral side
   3. Using biodegradable tweezers, thread the biodegradable thread through the collar holes and pull to tighten
   4. Use one entire pack of soluable thread per bat—can double loop thread, thread through multiple holes, and tie with multiple knots
   5. Dab a small amount of glue on the knots and let dry for 30s
   6. Trim the excess thread off of knots
3. Monitor bat
   1. Place the bat in a bag or garraba for 30 mins to monitor its behavior and the positioning of the tag
   2. IF THE BAT APPEARS SEVERELY DISTRESSED OR THE COLLAR APPEARS TO BE TOO TIGHT OR TOO LOOSE REMOVE IT AND TRY AGAIN
      1. Indications of too tight include:
         1. Bat lethargy or gasping for air
         2. Severely restricted head movement
         3. Clawing/scratching behavior (some amount of this is normal and expected)
      2. Indications of too loose include:
         1. tag swinging to the bats chest instead of remaining secured on its back
4. Release bat
   1. And thank it for its service!

The most important thing is to make sure that the tag is activated before deployment.