How to Write a Methods Section

Mammalogy 2019

Three Key Parts:

- Study Site

- Collection Methods (sometimes multiple sections)

- Data Analysis

Study Site

- Name of location
  - Important info/statistics about location (especially if relevant to study questions)

- Description of Environment at location:
  - Common vegetation
  - Land usage
  - Average weather/seasons
  - Relevant species presences

Collection Methods

- How data was collected (cameras, GPS collars, DNA samples, etc.)

- Period of time during which data was collected

- What specific data was collected

- How much data was collected

- Specific rules applied to the data (data thrown out or grouped together and why)

Statistical Analyses

- Manipulations made to the data (data thrown out or grouped and why)

- Method applied (citing source unless you create the method)

- Statistical tests being applied to data and the relevant statistical packages used to examine that data