

# Animal Sexual Abuse: The Forensic Process

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# Overview

- Animal sexual abuse
  - Basic terminology
  - History
  - Different forms of animal sexual abuse
  - Animals that are sexually abused
  - Why animals are sexually abused
  - Types of injuries
  - Differentiating from other injuries
  - Forensic exam: options
  - The forensic exam
    - Collection of evidence
    - Packaging of evidence
    - Reporting
  - Forensic Evidence Processing
  - Cases
  - Questions

# Basic Terminology

- Bestiality
  - Any kind of sexual contact with an animal or any physical contact with an animal from which one experiences sexual excitement or pleasure

# Basic Terminology

- Zoophilia
  - Sexual preference for or sexual attraction to animals

# Basic Terminology

- Animal Sexual Abuse
  - Comparatively novel term derived from the more familiar term “child sexual abuse”
  - More precise and encompassing than bestiality or zoophilia

## History

- Animal sexual abuse is a rare form of animal abuse
- Animal sexual abuse is not new. This type of behavior dates back to at least the time of the Old Testament
- In the past all but 2 states, Illinois and New Hampshire, had outlawed bestiality. Currently only 37 states have laws addressing bestiality.
  - Bestiality is a misdemeanor in 20 states and a felony in only 17 states

# Types of Animals

- Horses
- Dogs
- Any Animal

# Motivations for Animal Sexual Abuse

- Opportunist/experimental
  - This type of abuse is often characterized as the acts of curious youth or a lonely man
  - These individuals seek out animals as they are accessible, vulnerable, and not threatening
- (Sinclair, Merck, Lockwood, 2006)

# Motivations for Animal Sexual Abuse

- Fixated/primary
  - This type of abuser has a sexual preference for or attraction to animals (zoophiles)
  
- (Sinclair, Merck, Lockwood, 2006)

# Motivations for Animal Sexual Abuse

- Domineering/sadistic
  - Batters, rapist, and pornographers may force women, children and other vulnerable individuals into having sex with animals in order to humiliate, dominate, control, and exploit the human and animal victims.
  - Some perpetrators may derive sexual gratification from the pain and suffering inflicted while sexually abusing animals
    - This type of sadistic abuser is likely to injure or kill the animal
    - (Sinclair, Merck, Lockwood, 2006)

# What is Animal sexual Abuse?

- Animal sexual abuse occurs in a wide variety of forms such as:
  - Vaginal, anal, oral penetration
  - Fondling
  - Genital mutilation
  - Oral-genital contact
  - Penetration using an object
  - Killing or injuring an animal for sexual gratification

# Animal Sexual Abuse

- All animals are possible victims.
- It is imperative that veterinarians recognize and at least question injuries or behaviors of the animal that may signal animal abuse.
- According to [Pet-Abuse.com](http://Pet-Abuse.com) 2016 statistics, animal sexual abuse 1.3 % of all animal abuse nationally reported.

# Urogenital issues/injuries mistaken for sexual abuse

- Bite wounds to the genitals and perineal region
- Copulation with a larger animal, vaginal tears (heat, OHE?)
- Perianal fistula
- Rectal or vaginal polyps
- Transmissible Venereal Tumors

## Perianal Fistula



# Anal Sac Abscess



# Transmissible Venereal Tumor (TVT)



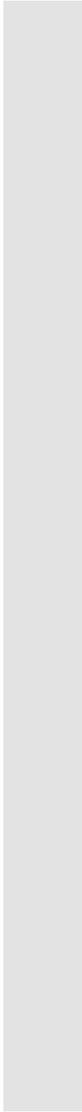
# Types of Injuries in Animal Sexual Abuse

- There is a wide spectrum of injuries observed in animals that have been sexually abused
  - There may be no injuries at all
  - There may be extreme injuries resulting in death



Rectal





Vaginal



# Vaginal Tears

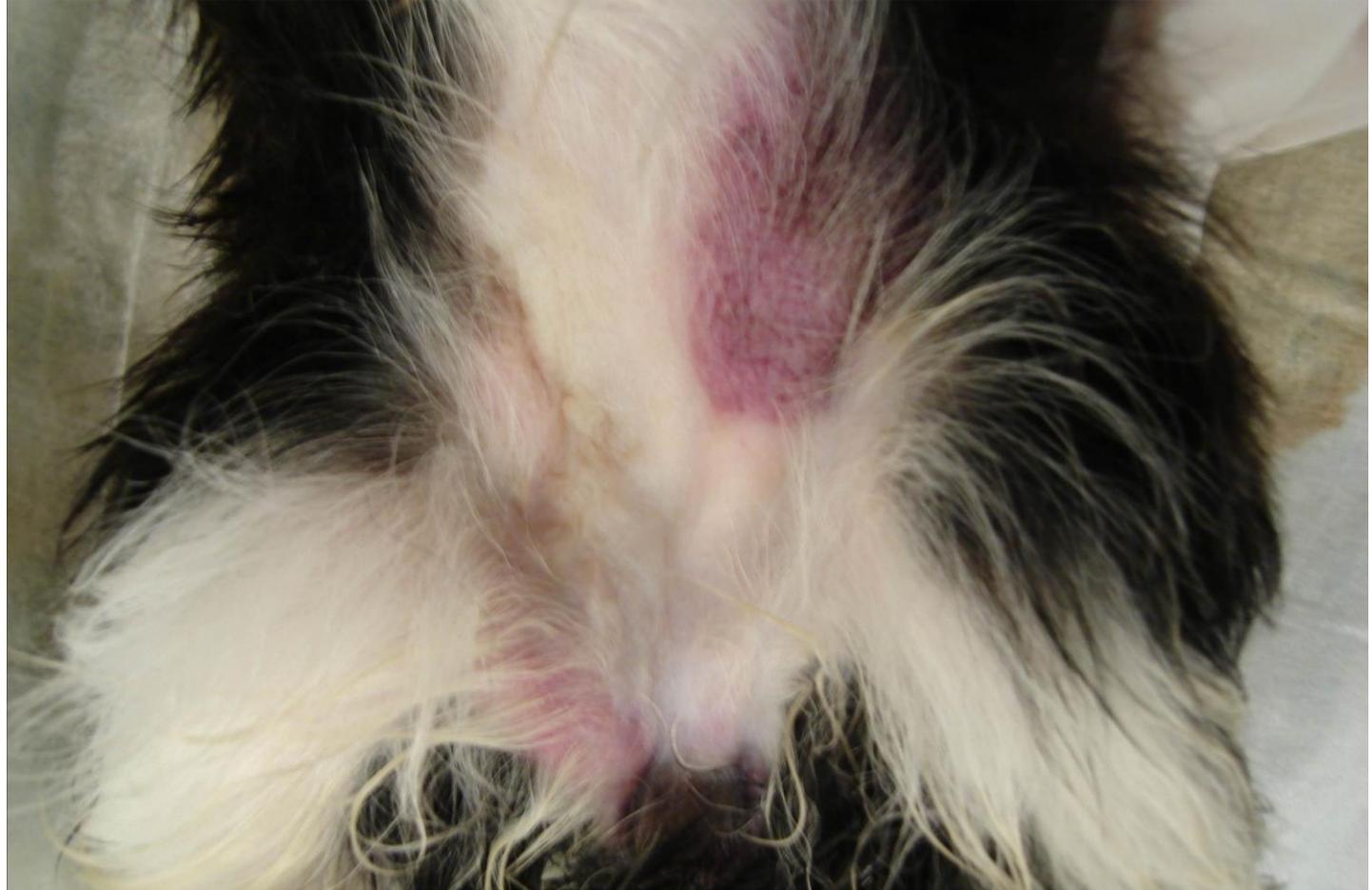


# Foreign Objects



# Types of Injuries

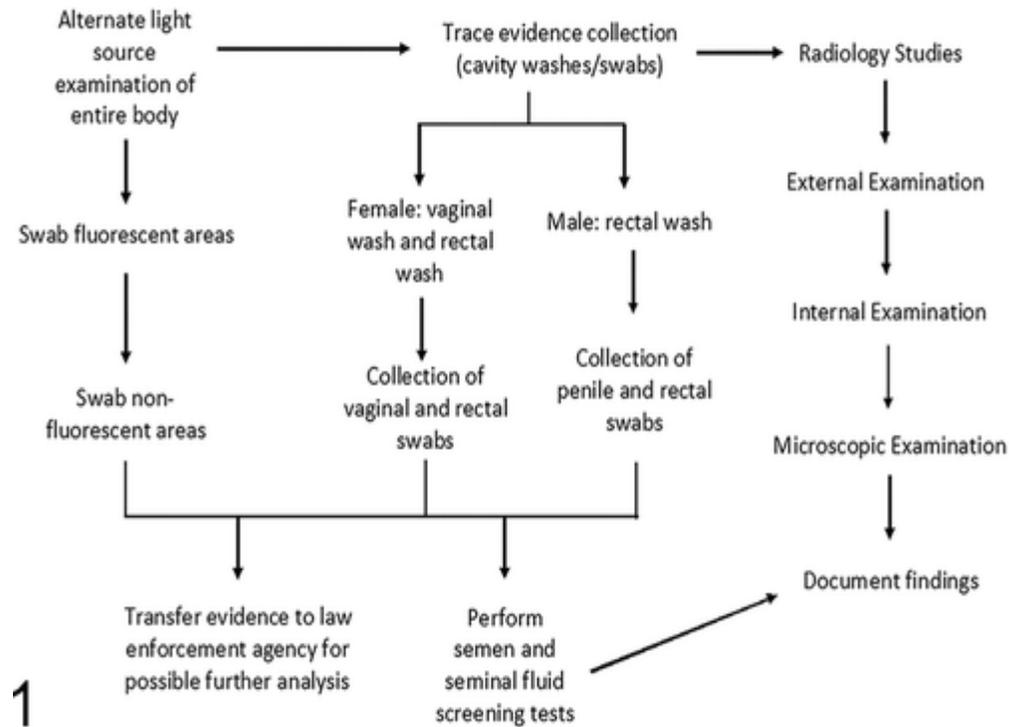
- During the head to tail exam:
  - Abrasions, bruises, pattern injuries, lacerations
  - Bite marks, burns, head trauma, blunt force injuries
  - Injuries to the ears (grabbing), ligature and/or binding marks (around muzzle or limbs)
  - Toenail injuries
  - Strangulation type injuries
    - Petechiae in the eyes, ears, mouth
    - Excessive salivating, coughing
    - Raspy breathing
    - Swollen trachea
    - Alopecia around the neck
  - Tail injuries (especially near the base)



# Veterinary Training

- Importance
- Any Veterinarian can perform sexual assault kit

# Forensic Examination (Necropsy) of an Animal Suspected or Known to be a Victim of Sexual Abuse (Adam Stern)



# Forensic Exam Options

- If unable to perform medical-forensic exam immediately: **what are reasons why it couldn't be performed immediately?**
  - Diligence not to damage any potential forensic evidence; **do not feed, do not wash, or take rectal temperature. Stress urgency for forensic exam.**
  - **Place in a clean kennel with clean removable bedding, e-collar, keep NPO**
  - Notify LE if not already done, contact forensic veterinarian ASAP
  - Recommend to LE swabbing suspect

# Forensic Exam Options

- If greater than 120 hours
  - Perform head to tail exam
  - Measure and document all injuries
  - Collect blood and urine and whole body radiographs
  - Document findings
    - Photos
    - Body map
    - Description on an injury log
  - (IF not sure of time elapsed collect swabs)

# Forensic Exam

- In order to avoid contaminating or losing evidence it should be collected before the complete physical exam occurs
  - Initial overview entire body
  - Use ALS, check nails and feet, comb
  - Collect oral and ano-genital samples
  - Then proceed with typical forensic exam
  - If swabbing injuries, be sure to photograph before swabbing

# Forensic Exam

- 1. Perform a complete head-to-tail examination (see listed injuries)
- 2. Use a black light or alternative light source (ALS) to look for semen, saliva, vomit, or blood; collect via swabs & note location on body map.
- 3. Take photographs of the entire animal, including all injuries, before and after shaving or cleaning. Acquire photos with and without measurement.

# Forensic Exam

- 4. Diagram & describe (measurements, color, location) all injuries
- 5. Collect toenail scrapings, swabs, and clippings; the animal may have scratched the suspect
- 6. Swab teeth and gums for foreign DNA or other material; as the animal may have bitten
- 7. Collect a buccal DNA swab, for the DNA standard

# Forensic Exam

- 7. Obtain blood and urine samples. The animal may have been drugged and/or the suspect's semen and sperm may be present in the urine of female victims.
- 8. Collect fecal samples if the animal defecated after the assault. Again, there's the possibility that semen and sperm may be present

# Forensic Exam

- 9. Examine the genital area (male and female), beginning externally and working inward; if alive the patient should be sedated.
  - Collect rectal, vaginal and/or cervical or penile, samples via swabs (externally then internally). Package separately
  - Examine for foreign bodies
  - Use sterile otoscope for a light source or a human (juvenile) sterile clear plastic vaginal speculum.
  - Consider obtaining cultures for Gonorrhea & Chlamydia

# Forensic Exam

- 10. Obtain whole-body radiographs, with specific attention to the base of the tail and coccygeal area.



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# Forensic Exam: Swabbing Technique

- All areas where physical or fluid (ejaculate) contact was possible should be swabbed, taking appropriate measures to prevent contamination:
- 1. Swab body surfaces using a sterile swab moistened with a drop of sterile water. When swabbing mucous membranes, it is not necessary to moisten the swab
- 2. Follow with a dry swab

# Forensic Exam: Swabbing Technique

- 3. Hold the swab at 45 degree angle, concentrating the contact area to the top of the swab
- 4. Dry the swabs

If using a dryer, dry swabs for 1 hour before packaging

If a swab dryer is not available, place swabs in a cardboard swab box and keep them at room temperature for 24 hours before refrigerating or freezing them

# Forensic Exam: Packaging

- 5. Package the swabs from each location separately
- 6. Label each box with the location of the swabbed area. Check with the local crime laboratory for specific packaging guidelines.

\*\*Special swab collection kits, known as sexual assault kits, are available

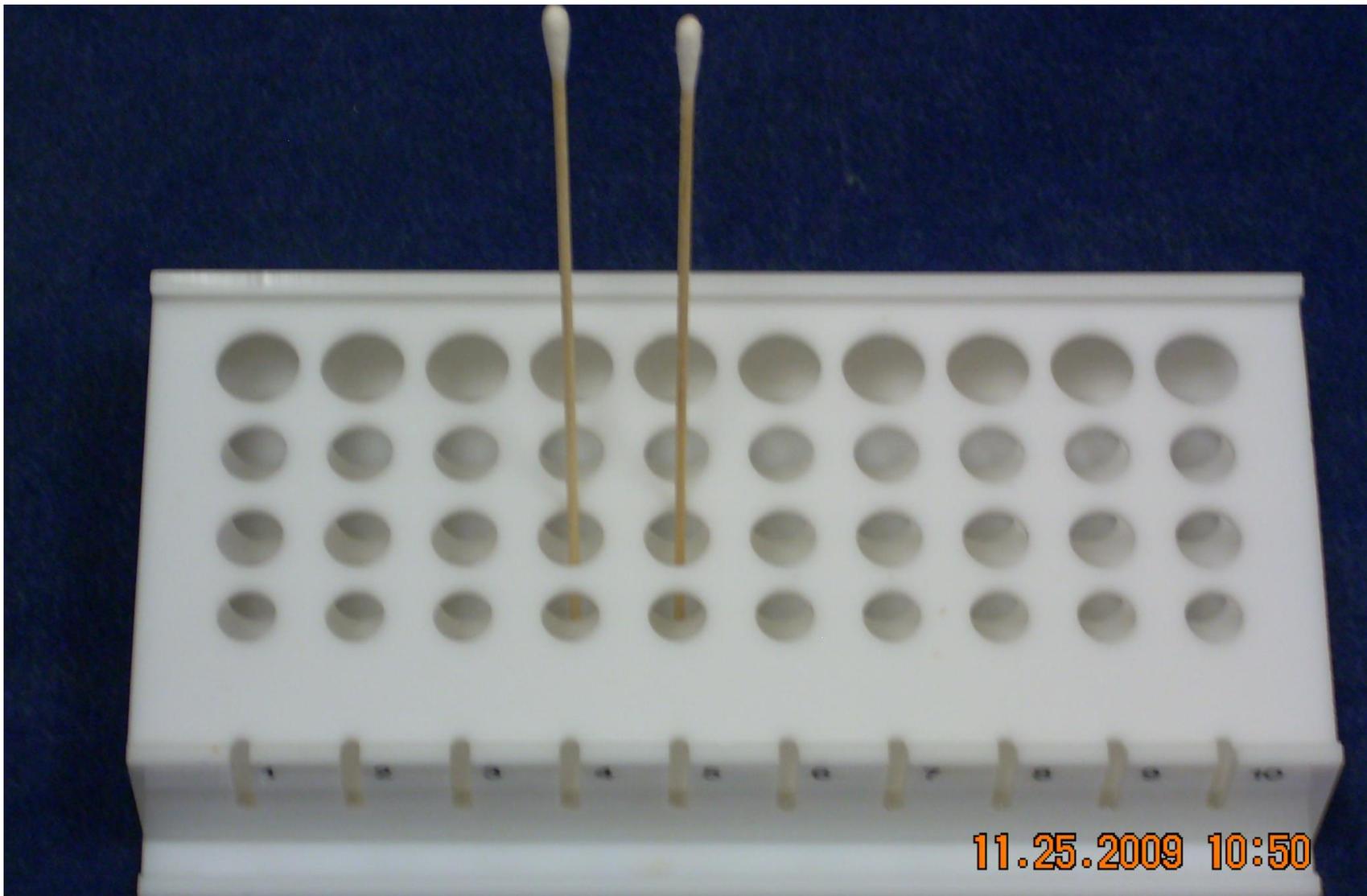
# Forensic Exam: Packaging

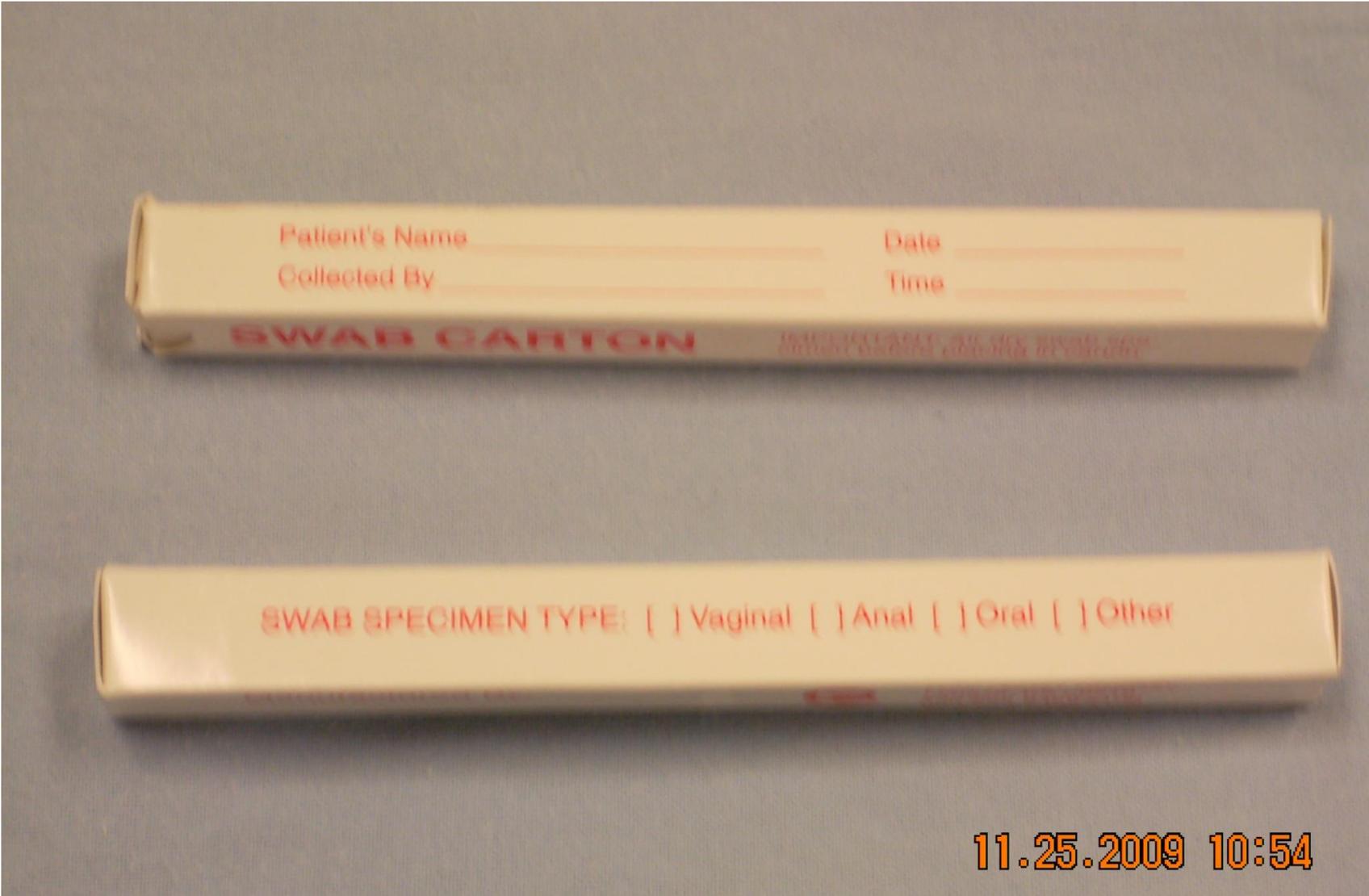
- 7. Place boxes in paper evidence bag
- 8. Seal
- 9. Check with local reporting LE agencies for packaging and chain of custody requirements
- 10. Be sure the sealed kit/swabs are kept in a secure location until picked up by law enforcement





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# -EVIDENCE-

(TO BE OPENED BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY)

Submitting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Item No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

Collected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Enclosed Evidence: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Where Collected: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Offense: \_\_\_\_\_

Victim's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Suspect's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bag Sealed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Badge No.: \_\_\_\_\_

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# SEX CRIMES KIT

## CAT NO. CC100

FOR USE IN THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE IN ALL CATEGORIES OF SEX RELATED CASES

AFFIX  
BIOHAZARD  
SEAL HERE

To examining Physician/Nurse:

1. This kit contains materials for collecting evidence in alleged sex crimes. There are eleven (11) separate steps to be completed.
2. Directions for each step are printed on the appropriate envelope or packet.
3. Each specimen or sample taken must be clearly identified. Therefore, it is recommended that this kit be opened, and prior to actually collecting the evidence, that all the appropriate identifying data be placed on the various containers.

STEP1 DEBRIS COLLECTION	STEP7 FINGERNAIL SCRAPINGS, RIGHT & LEFT
STEP2 DENTAL SWABBING	STEP8 SALIVA SAMPLE
STEP3 DRIED SECRETIONS	STEP9 SWEAT SAMPLES - ORAL, ANK, VAGINAL
STEP4 COMB AND PUBIC COMBINGS	STEP10 WHOLE BLOOD SAMPLE
STEP5 PUBIC HAIR-- PULLED	STEP10A DNA BLOOD TESTING SAMPLE
STEP6 HEAD HAIR-- PULLED	STEP11 NASAL MUCCOUS SAMPLE

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD SAMPLES TAKEN FROM A SUSPECT BE PLACED IN THE SAME KIT AS THOSE FROM THE PATIENT**

CMALE	PATIENT _____	MED REC. NO. _____
CFEMALE	EXAMINING PHYSICIAN _____	
	ATTENDING NURSE _____	
	DATE/TIME _____	HOSPITAL/CLINIC _____
	PHONE NO. _____	WITNESS _____

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY USE ONLY

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT \_\_\_\_\_  
INVESTIGATING OFFICER \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIN OF POSSESSION  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

LAB USE ONLY  
LAB NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_  
EXAMINED BY \_\_\_\_\_

MANUFACTURED BY  
**SIRCHIE**  
FINGER PRINT LABORATORIES, INC.

100 HUNTER PLACE, YOUNGVILLE, N.C. 27586  
PHONE: (919) 354-2244, (800) 256-7211  
FAX: (919) 354-2266, (800) 889-8181

# Relationship with Law Enforcement and Forensic Labs

- Collaboration
- Chain of Custody

# Cases

- Labrador Case
- Shitzu Case
- Australian Shepherd Case
- Poodle Case
- Male Dog case MCSO

# Questions

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