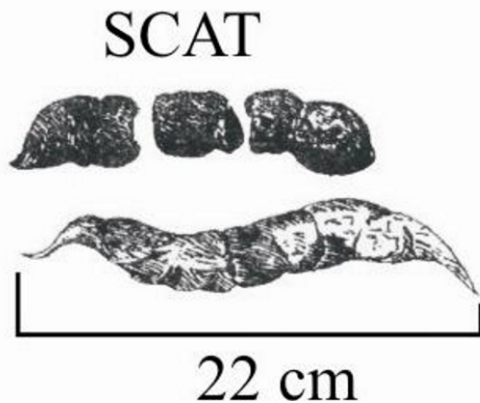


Scat

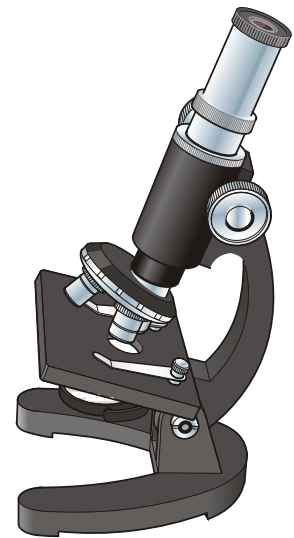
Your house cat has a litter box and covers up his droppings with store bought kitty litter. A puma uses leaf litter or sand to cover its droppings (scat) in the bush.



The researchers take these scat to the laboratory where they look at the DNA (tiny molecules on the outside of the scat). This information is important when trying to count how many pumas are in an area.

Hair Traps and Detective Work

Puma researchers use hair traps to collect puma DNA (tiny molecules in the puma hair cells). The cats are attracted by a pheromone (feramone) lure that works just like catnip. It is so thrilled to smell the special lure that it rubs and scratches on the hair trap leaving some of its fur behind. The researchers take these hairs to the laboratory where they look at the DNA. The results can prove that a puma rubbed hair onto the trap, not a wolf, or a fox. This information is important when trying to count how many pumas are in an area.



Make your own Hair Trap

Clean your cats brush and tie it to a furniture leg or post. Rub catnip on the brush and wait to see what happens. Did your cat leave any hairs on his brush?

