

The DAPTF Fieldwork Code of Practice

1. Remove mud, snails, algae and other debris from nets, traps, boots, vehicle tyres and all other surfaces. Rinse cleaned items with sterilized (eg. boiled or treated) water before leaving each study site.
2. Boots, nets, traps etc. should then be scrubbed with 70% ethanol solution and rinsed clean with sterilized water between study sites. Avoid cleaning equipment in the immediate vicinity of a pond or wetland.
3. In remote locations, clean all equipment as described above (or with a bleach solution) upon return to the lab or "base camp". Elsewhere, when washing-machine facilities are available, remove nets from poles and wash with bleach on a "delicates" cycle, contained in a protective mesh laundry bag.
4. When working at sites with known or suspected disease problems, or when sampling populations of rare or isolated species, wear disposable gloves and change them between handling each animal. Dedicate sets of nets, boots, traps and other equipment to each site being visited. Clean and store them separately at the end of each field day.
5. When amphibians are collected, ensure the separation of animals from different sites and take great care to avoid indirect contact between them (e.g. via handling, reuse of containers) or with other captive animals. Isolation from unsterilized plants or soils which have been taken from other sites is also essential. Always use disinfected/disposable husbandry equipment.
6. Examine collected amphibians for the presence of diseases and parasites soon after capture. Prior to their release or the release of any progeny, amphibians should be quarantined for a period and thoroughly screened for the presence of any potential disease agents.
7. Used cleaning materials (liquids etc.) should be disposed of safely and if necessary taken back to the lab for proper disposal. Used disposable gloves should be retained for safe disposal in sealed bags.

The DAPTF Fieldwork Code of Practice has been produced by the DAPTF with valuable assistance from Begona Arano, Andrew Cunningham, Tom Langton, Jamie Reaser and Stan Sessions. For further information on this Code, or on the [DAPTF](#), contact John Wilkinson, Biology Department, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, UK. E-mail: DAPTF@open.ac.uk. Fax: +44 (0) 1908-654167

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