

Camera Deployment: Set-up and Retrieval Instructions

Reference videos: <https://youtu.be/dRDyMm5eJe4> and <https://youtu.be/KlZmfgNRqhl>

Prepping equipment

- Mark and record camera on deployment data sheet.
- Clear any data from SD card (If card is not cleared, camera will save two folders of photos onto SD card, and one will have to be deleted before uploading to eMammal software.)
- Label SD card and record ID on deployment data sheet.
- Set correct date and time so it will be recorded on each image captured.

Choosing deployment site (with or without student input)

- Choose a site that fits within any experimental parameters of your study (if specified).
- Try to find a level site. If camera must be mounted on an incline, aim it parallel with the slope.
- Search for a straight, live tree at least 8 to 10 inches in diameter with an unobstructed view in one direction (you may need to remove a small amount of vegetation).
- Avoid aiming camera toward an area with heavy human/vehicle use to reduce false triggers.
- Avoid a site facing fields or prairies where vegetation blowing in the wind will produce excessive false triggers.

Installing camera trap

Before doing a full three-week deployment, you may want to run your camera for a few days and then check photos to confirm that the location is suitable.

- Record camera ID and deployment site information on eMammal data sheet.
- Make sure memory card is cleared.
- Orient camera to face a clearing, parallel to the ground. If necessary, use sticks behind camera as “shims” to adjust its position.
- Position camera at knee height.
- Secure and lock camera at mounting site (usually a tree).
- After mounting and securing camera:
 - Turn on camera.
 - Verify that date and time are set accurately.
 - Verify that battery charge is above 60 percent (or two bars for Bushnell cameras).
 - Set camera to walk-test mode and perform walk test. (See time 01:05 on video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KlZmfgNRqhl&feature=youtu.be>.) If camera does not perform well during walk test, adjust camera placement or choose a new site. You should be able to detect motion at least 10 meters away. Record detection distance on data sheet.
 - Arm camera. Stand in front of camera once countdown is finished to get photos of you setting it up. This adds verification of set-up date.
 - Fill in rest of data sheet with:
 - Volunteer name(s)
 - Date and time of camera set-up

- Deployment coordinates
- Detection distance
- Camera ID
- Memory card ID
- Comments

Deployment

- Deploy camera for three weeks. This is the standard interval for eMammal research.
- Monitor camera trap throughout deployment for damage, vandalism and theft.

Ending deployment

- Stand in front of camera (to capture photos of end of deployment) and turn off camera.
- Unlock camera from where it was secured.
- Confirm camera is in working order, still able to take pictures.
- Assess condition of camera and deployment site and record any observations on data sheet.
- Verify information on data sheet.
- Note: Debris, insects and/or spider webs may be on the camera. This should not affect camera performance. You may gently clean it.
- Screen photos for inappropriate content before providing access to students.