

# CARIBOU MONITORING VIDEO SCRIPT

## VIDEO #2: LEVEL TWO

00:02 (ON-SCREEN TEXT):

### LEVEL TWO: ADVANCED MONITORING

This protocol requires that hunters and technicians write down additional information and collect additional samples.

This will make it possible to do a more in-depth analysis of the body condition, parasites, diseases, and general health of the caribou herds.

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00:30 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Data Sheet

Data Sheet.

This protocol requires that collectors fill in a data sheet.

Data sheets, clipboards, and pre-labeled sampling kits are provided.

First, fill in the details on the caribou collection.

This includes:

- the animal identification number – this will be the number on the sampling kit.
- your name
- date of kill
- location of the kill – for example the name of a lake
- if possible, also record the latitude and longitude – use a map, or a GPS.
- check if the caribou is a cow or a bull and estimate its age – whether it be a calf, yearling, or adult

If you are looking at a female:

- indicate if it had a calf with it. If you aren't sure check 'don't know'
- indicate if it has milk in its udder and the type of milk – clear like water, dilute milk, or thick like toothpaste

The next thing to do is an external examination.

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**02:31 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): External Exam Joints**

External Examination: Joints

First, you want to look at the legs and joints for swellings, lumps and bumps.

If you see any swellings on or around the joints, record that on the data sheet and describe what you see.

If you find an unusual leg, put it into the sample bag that is labelled "abnormality".

If you see nothing unusual on the joints circle 'fine' on the data sheet.

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**03:19 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): External Exam Skin**

Skin.

Next, you want to take a look at the skin on the caribou.

Begin by feeling the fur for any roughness.

After that, record and describe anything unusual with the skin on the data sheet.

If there is nothing unusual, circle fine.

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**03:44 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): External Exam Feet**

Feet.

Next, you want to look at the feet and record anything unusual.

For example, if the foot is swollen or if there are wounds on the foot.

Then, on the datasheet, make a note if you see anything unusual on the feet and describe what you see.

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**04:21 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): External Exam Eyes**

Eyes.

When looking at eyes, look at the the whites of the eyes to see if there are any small white spots that look like salt.

These small spots are caused by a tiny parasite called Besnoitia.

This parasite does not hurt people, but can cause problems for caribou.

Record what you find on the data sheet.

Next, the jaw can be removed by cutting away the tongue and the muscles that are attached to the jaw bone, as described in Level One Basic.

Attach the jaw tag securely to the jaw.

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### 05:11 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): External Exam Testicles

Testicles.

Before you skin a male caribou, remove both of the testicles along with the skin (or 'scrotum'), and place in a labeled sampling bag.

Testicles will be examined in the laboratory for any signs of disease that might affect male fertility.

Freeze testicles as soon as possible.

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### 05:46 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Backfat

Back.

Now you can now go ahead and start to skin the caribou.

Once you have skinned it, measure the backfat as described in Level One Basic.

Record the depth of the fat on the datasheet.

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### 06:11 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Warbles

WARBLES

Once you have skinned the caribou, look for bugs under the skin.

These are warbles.

Warbles leave scars on the skin.

Estimate the number of warbles, or warble scars, on the hide.

Then, on the datasheet, make sure to note if you are recording warbles or scars.

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06:58 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Blood Samples

Blood Samples.

To collect the freshest and cleanest blood samples, wait until you cut the hind leg.

Collect this blood on sets of filter paper strips that are provided in an envelope in your kit.

Each set of strips looks like a comb, with strips on it.

Soak the strips in clean, fresh blood so that both sides are covered in blood all the way down to where the strips widen.

When handling filter papers strips try not to touch the part with blood on it.

Once the filter papers are soaked with blood put them back into the envelope, then into a Ziplock bag.

Keep the blood strips frozen.

(On-screen voice: "What's that for?")

The blood on the filter paper may be tested to check for diseases, pregnancy, vitamins and minerals as well as other measures of caribou health.

Continue to butcher the animal.

Remove the left lower leg bone, with the skin and hoof attached, as described in Level One Basic.

When you get to the inside of the animal you will need to collect the kidney, a piece of the liver and the feces, or poo.

You will also need to look at the lungs.

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08:37 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Kidney

Kidney.

The kidney, including the fat around it, is used as a measure of caribou 'fatness'. The kidney can also be used to test for contaminants.

For this sample we remove the left kidney and the fat around it.

The left kidney is the kidney that is loose in the gut cavity on the left side of the caribou's body.

(On-screen voice: It's one that's a little bit farther back, and it hangs down. loose in the abdomen.)

Collect the left kidney with all of the fat surrounding it.

Place the kidney in a labeled plastic bag for transport and storage. Freeze this as soon as possible.

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**09:29 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Feces ('poo')**

Feces, or poo.

Feces are collected to figure out the caribou's diet and to test for parasites and diseases.

Look on the ground near the caribou's butt to see if there are any feces nearby.

After the animal has been gutted, fecal samples can also be collected from the lower gut.

Make sure to collect as much feces as possible.

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**10:12 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Liver**

Liver.

The liver can be used to test for contaminants.

The liver is also examined for parasite cysts.

Look at both surfaces of the liver and record any parasite cysts.

Make sure to give details in the comments.

Next collect the accessory lobe of the liver. This is the small lobe on the under side of the liver.

Put this in the labeled sampling bag and freeze it as soon as possible.

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**11:05 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Lungs**

Lungs.

The last things to look at are the lungs.

Look on both sides of the lungs for cysts, or balls of fluid.

Cysts may be the size of your finger nail up to the size of a golf ball.

These are 'hydatid' cysts.

You should not eat these or give them to your dogs as they can infect people. You'll need to record the number of cysts on the data sheet.

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### 12:12 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Pregnancy

Pregnancy.

If you are looking at a female, record if she is pregnant, and if so, the sex of the calf.

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### 12:29 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Comments

The last section of the datasheet is for comments.

You need to fill in this section if you see any unusual on the caribou. Please describe anything unusual in detail, and collect samples into the bag that is labelled "abnormalities".

Samples will be examined in the laboratory.

Finally, once you have finished butchering the caribou, write on the data sheet how fat you think the caribou is for that time of year.

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### 13:13 (ON-SCREEN TEXT): Conclusion

(sigh) You are done.

Your sample kit should include the following samples:

Testicles, if it is a male, blood strips, the left kidney and the fat, liver, feces, leg bone, jaw, and any abnormalities.

Your data sheet should be completely filled in.

Freeze all samples as soon as possible.

The samples and information that you provide will give us good information about how the caribou herds are doing in the North.

Thank you very much for participating in this caribou health monitoring program!

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**CREDITS**