Module 4: PowerPoint Presentation – Grinding a Fecal Sample

The next step in processing a fecal sample is to grind the dried sample in the cyclone sample mill. This lecture will provide a brief overview of the process.

As you learned in learning module three, this is the cyclone sample mill. Note in this picture, the sample jar is on the peg, and in place to catch the milled sample. Remember, the jar should only be in place when milling a sample, and should be stored to the side of the peg when milling is not taking place.

If milling pellet type fecal samples from animals such as sheep or goats, which are normally small pieces of matter, you do not have to break the sample into small pieces. However, if milling coarser, larger material, such as cattle samples, you should chop the sample into smaller pieces to avoid clogging the grinder. Again, this step is not necessary for sheep and goat samples.

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NEXT SLIDE

Place the receiving jar on the peg on the sample mill and make sure it has a tight seal with the tube above it. Make sure all the clamps are tight on the top of the sample mill, to ensure the ground sample does not escape from the top or the sample chute. Turn the sample mill on.

NEXT SLIDE
Slowly place the sample in the top of the sample mill. Place the sample in the tube in a slow and steady matter. You should see the ground sample come through the tube and into the jar as it is fed through the mill.

After the entire sample has been ground, turn the sample mill off. Transfer the ground sample from the receiving jar into a coin envelope as shown in the picture.

A live video of the grinding procedure is available on the course content page. Please make sure to review this video, as it provides a full explanation of how to successfully grind samples.