After logging the sample in and assigning it a number, you should place the sample in a receptacle for the initial drying of the fresh or wet sample. You cannot dry samples in a Ziploc bag because it is plastic. The plastic will either melt and/or keep the water vapor from leaving the sample. So you need to use a paper or aluminum tray for drying samples. To maintain sample ID integrity, you should write the sample number on the receptacle that you will use to dry the fresh sample.

Once you have labeled the receptacle, place the fresh sample into the tray, and place it into the oven for the initial drying.

The time it takes to dry a fresh sample varies based on how much moisture is in the sample. Typically, overnight is sufficient, so 12-18 hours is a good estimate.

Place the sample in the oven and close the door.

To maximize the most efficient drying time, you want to keep the door closed, so it is best to load all of your fresh, wet, fecal samples into the oven at one time.