

TEETH SAMPLES REQUIRED

Successful hunters are **required** to submit 2 teeth samples from each bear taken. The teeth will be used to determine the bear's age.

Teeth samples are to be mailed to the DNR **in the envelope obtained from the registration station**. Put clean samples in the small zip-lock bag containing Borax powder (Borax dries the sample and slows spoilage.) Place the sealed zip-lock bag inside the bubble-pack bag and seal (Bubble-pack steers the envelope away from automated postal processing equipment, which can snag on samples, dislodging them from envelopes and can damage equipment). Place bubble-pack in the outside mailer envelope. **Do not fold the bubble-pack it should fill the entire envelope**. Please follow these packing instructions as they help ensure better sample for the DNR and the continued cooperation of the Postal Service. Thank You.

TOOTH REMOVAL PROCEDURE

The best tooth for determining the age of a bear is the first upper premolar ("P1" in *Figure A*). If this tooth is not available, any other small tooth in the upper or lower jaw will suffice. (*Note that removal of a tooth will not affect mounting, as the actual skull is not used.*)

Cut the gum tissue deeply around the tooth with a knife. Then insert the knife or a screwdriver under the front edge of the tooth, and using the large canine tooth for leverage, pry the premolar out of the socket (*Figure B*). When removing the tooth, please be especially careful not to break off the root, as this is the part needed for age determination. If you do break the root, try to remove another tooth.

Hunters that submit a tooth sample by NOVEMBER 1, will receive a Minnesota Bear Management Cooperator patch.

