

Master Project: Seasonal variation in the gut microbiome and diet of feral pigeons

GUT MICROBIOME

Gut bacteria help with host nutrition and are vital for immune functioning. Seasonal demands on the host, changes in its physiology, and diet variation may impact gut microbiome composition.

DIET

Diet has a large impact on the gut microbiome composition. Little is known of the diet of feral pigeons. We will investigate their diet via bar-coding (sequencing).



PROJECT AIM

Determine if the gut microbiome of feral pigeons varies seasonally and if is this related to diet, sex, location, or biometry



YOU WILL

- Extract DNA from cloacal swabs and feces
- do a PCR
- Analyse the gut microbiome (using R)
- Analyse the diet (using R)

DURATION & CONTACT

Duration 6 months

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