

1. Carefully unwrap your owl pellet on a clean working surface.
2. Inspect your pellet, note: size, bones, feathers, whitewash, or any clues about where the pellet came from.
You are a scientist.
3. Very gently, pull apart your pellet, being very careful not to break any bones. (Some teachers prefer to soak the pellet in water, others prefer to work with a dry pellet.)
4. Carefully separate the bones from the fur or feathers. Teasing needles or toothpicks work well. Take special care removing skulls and jaws because they are the best way to identify the animals.
5. Look for evidence of the wool eating moth life cycle; eggs (tiny), pupae casings, cocoons or larvae.
6. Roll the last bits of fur between your fingers to find little bones or teeth that may have been overlooked.
7. Try to lay out or reconstruct the skeletons of the animals you have found. Identify the animals. How many animals in each pellet?...

Thank you for ordering from **Pellets, Inc.** and enjoy the lab.

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Barn Owl Pellets — "From the Source"

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