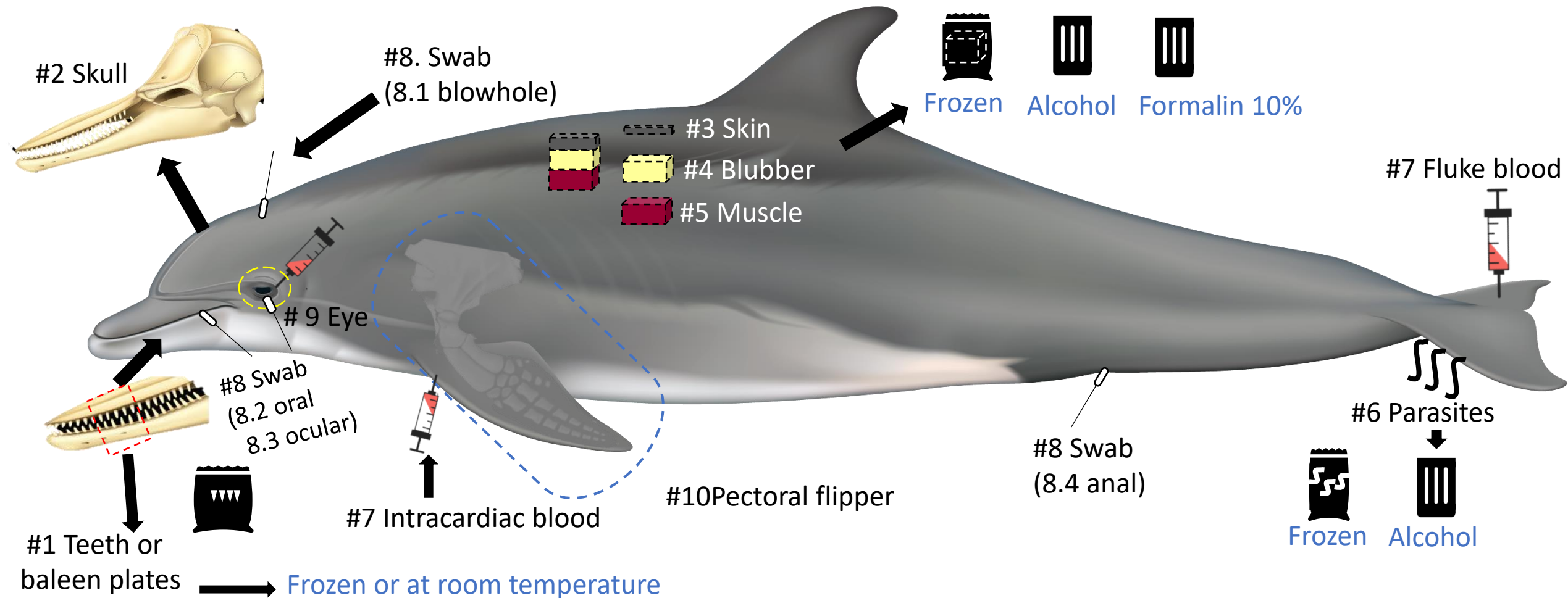


# Basic samples to collect and preserve (DDC 2-3)



**Basic samples to collect from a stranded cetacean**

- Teeth sample:** Count the total teeth (or baleen) and empty sockets and collect 4-5 teeth or baleen (from middle part of the jaw), store frozen or dry in a bag.
- Skull:** Can be preserved by different methods (if collected try to get a brain and cerebrospinal fluid samples).
- Skin, #4 blubber, #5 muscle:** Cut a square of 5x5 cm using a knife or blade and tweezers and separate them. The samples for formalin should have maximum 1 cm thick. The alcohol could be 70% ideally at 95% (even vodka and gin works!). They can be frozen directly. Blubber ideally should be wrapped first with aluminium paper foil and then put it in a bag.
- External parasites:** Storage in alcohol at room temperature and/or frozen.
- Complete blood:** Can be collected ideally intracardiac until 16 hours after death. For serum deposit it in red cap blood tubes.
- Swabs:** Sterile swabs from the blowhole, oral, ocular and anal can be collected for disease diagnoses.
- Eye:** Both eyes can be collected for serology, and histopathology.
- Pectoral flippers:** Can be collected and frozen for later interpretation of age class by Xrays.

**IMPORTANT: remember to label each bag with the case identification and date!**