**Hair Analysis Microscope Lab**

Name: Date: Period:

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**Background Information**:

****Identifying whether the hair is human or animal is the first step in forensic hair analysis. Human hairs usually have a thin (less than ⅓ of the hair’s diameter) or an absent medulla region. Animal hairs usually have thick medulla (more than ½ of the hair’s diameter). Look at the photos below for examples of what you might see with the microscope.

**Human Cat Dog Mouse**

**Lab Materials**

* Microscope Slide Water Strands of Hair
* Coverslip Microscope Pipette
* Paper to set-up as lab sheet Pencil (to draw/write with)

**Lab Procedure:**

1. ****Obtain a clean microscope slide and place a drop of water on it.
2. Place several strands of hair on the drop of water.
3. Slowly lower a coverslip onto the drop of water/hair.
4. Examine the slide under the low- medium- and high-power objectives of a microscope.
5. Draw the hair while noting any internal features such as medulla, cortex, cuticle, granules or air spaces.
6. Label the features you just drew.
7. **Repeat Process for the different types of hair**