

Pathology Specimen Submissions

Collection

Carcass or Live Animal - When submitting an intact carcass or a live animal, the Pathology Section should be notified by the referring veterinarian or his/her office prior to submission of the animal.

Fixed tissue samples - If histopathology is requested, tissues need to be fixed prior to shipping in 10% neutral-buffered formalin. (See Appendix for formalin preparation instructions). Adequate fixative volume is important for proper fixation and should be 10-15 times greater than the tissue volume. Tissues should not exceed 1 cm in thickness. Formalin-fixed samples should be submitted in wide-mouth, leak-proof screw top containers. Whirl-pak bags are not acceptable. Containers should be labeled appropriately (client's name, animal ID). To prevent leakage, the containers should be sealed tightly and placed within a leak-proof plastic bag prior to shipment in an appropriate box.

Biopsies - For biopsy samples the history should include a complete signalment (species, age, sex and breed), the size, location and rate of growth of the lesion and treatment. When submitting samples from multiple neoplasms present on the same animal, samples should be clearly marked or submitted in separate containers. Plastic tissue cassettes and foam sponges are available for the submission of very small biopsy specimens for histopathologic examination. Use of the cassettes and sponges reduces the possibility of losing small specimens during processing. The number of tissues enclosed in the cassette should be noted on the submission form.

Shipping

Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
Division of Animal Health
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Building #6
8995 E Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

If you have questions about submitting a sample, please contact the ADDL:

Phone: 614-728-6220

Email: animal@agri.ohio.gov

Please submit the appropriate specimen for the desired test. Federal regulations govern the packaging and labeling of diagnostic samples. Many couriers refuse to handle packages that are leaking or show signs of internal breakage. Instructions:

1. Ship specimens in appropriate leak-proof containers.
2. Screw-cap closures must be reinforced with tape.
3. Label each primary specimen container with appropriate identification information including owner's last name, animal name/number and type of specimen.
4. Double bag primary specimen container with a whirl-pak bag secondary container.
5. Add absorbent material to prevent leakage should breakage occur.

[Sample Submission Form](#)