

Submission of Animal Specimens and Paperwork for Necropsy

PURPOSE

The DCM veterinary staff performs necropsies on animals exhibiting signs of ill health from unknown causes and those which die unexpectedly. Gross exams for screening are also performed (eg: primates). Performing diagnostic necropsies is a vital part of the Division's colony health program. This service may be provided at no charge to the Investigator. DCM also encourages Investigators to request necropsy evaluations on animals whose abnormal condition or death is most likely related to experiment. Investigators are directly charged for experimental related necropsy services.

The purpose of this SOP is to provide guidelines for submission of animal specimens for post-mortem examination by the Division of Comparative Medicine.

MATERIALS

Carcass bags
Morgue tags
Necropsy Request form

PROCEDURE

The following animals must be submitted for necropsy:

- All primates regardless of death (spontaneous or experimental)
- Any USDA regulated species that dies unexpectedly (unused or experimental)
- Any USDA regulated species that dies spontaneously while on DCM clinical or post-op rounds

Proper submission of specimens for necropsy:

1. Bag the carcass, securely tie the bag and affix a completed Vivarium Morgue Tag to the bag.
2. Record the death in the Animal Mortality Log located outside room B6915.
3. Immediately place the animal in the necropsy cooler B6911 in the SMD Vivarium. Place rodents on the top shelf and larger animals on the bottom shelf. **DO NOT FREEZE SPECIMENS INTENDED FOR NECROPSY.**
4. Complete the front of a Necropsy Request Form including a complete history of experimental manipulations. If no experimental history, this must be documented on the form.
5. Submit form to the Animal Resource Office (G-6708).

Reporting of necropsy findings:

The Principal Investigator (first name on animal's cage card) receives a copy of the necropsy report via email. If tissues are submitted for histopathology, a DCM veterinarian will review the pathologist's report and email the Principal Investigator with the complete necropsy report. The DCM veterinarians (X5-2651) are available to discuss necropsy findings with Investigators.