

## **DLAM Necropsy Submissions SOP**

### **PURPOSE**

The DLAM veterinary staff performs necropsies (autopsies) on animals exhibiting signs of ill health from unknown causes and those which die unexpectedly. Performing diagnostic necropsies is a vital part of the Division's colony health program. This service is provided at no charge to the Investigator. DLAM 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 Laboratory Animal 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 DLAM 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. Morgue tags are located adjacent to the necropsy cooler in the SMD vivarium basement.
2. Record the death in the Animal Mortality Log located on table adjacent to the necropsy cooler.
3. Immediately place the animal in the necropsy cooler. Rodents should be placed on the top shelf and larger animals on the bottom shelf. PLEASE DO NOT FREEZE SPECIMENS INTENDED FOR NECROPSY.

4. Complete the front of a Necropsy Request Form (including a complete history of experimental manipulations, if applicable) and submit form to the Animal Resource Office.

**Reporting of necropsy findings:**

The Principal Investigator (first name on animal's cage card) receives a copy of the necropsy report in intramural mail. The DLAM veterinarians (X5-2651) are available to discuss necropsy findings with Investigators.

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

**REFERENCES**

N/A