

Collecting samples from a field post-mortem examination

The AHL encourages relevant and extensive ranges of samples from field necropsy investigations (refer to the AHL Price List - Field Investigation Tissue Samples package).

<http://nre.tas.gov.au/Documents/AHL-Price-List.pdf>

PURPOSE

This is only a brief guide and not an exhaustive list of samples for laboratory testing. The types of samples taken will be based on your differential diagnoses or the need to exclude specific disease processes. If you need advice on specific samples related to diagnostic tests, please call the laboratory on (03) 6777 2111 and ask to speak to the duty pathologist.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Collection of samples

- If the animal is moribund, consider collecting EDTA / Heparin and clotted blood (with smear) prior to euthanasia.
- Fluids (such as aqueous humour) collected at post-mortem are to be stored chilled in an appropriate container. (N.B. blood collected after death is unsuitable for haematology or clinical chemistry.)
- Toxicological samples may include stomach content (contents should be placed in a leak-proof container), fresh kidney or liver, urine or feed.
- For suspected plant poisoning in ruminants, an adequate, representative sample of rumen content should be placed in a plastic large container and refrigerated or, if necessary (e.g., during transit or delayed examination) washed and sifted thoroughly, then stored chilled in a sealed plastic container from which all air, as far as practical has been expelled.

- Microbiology samples should consist either of tissues (collected aseptically) in sterile containers or swabs in transport media stored and transported chilled.
- Syringes, with or without needles, and gloves are **not appropriate** sample containers.

For histopathology

- Tissues are placed in at least ten (10) times their volume of neutral buffered formalin.
- Tissue slices should be not more than one (1) cm thick. (Brains should be submitted whole.)
- Containers should be
 - leak proof;
 - preferably wide-mouthed;
 - plastic rather than glass (glass jars can break and release formalin);
 - clearly labelled with animal ID, laboratory advice note serial number, owner, date of collection

TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

All fresh samples should be transported with an ice brick(s)

SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples to:

Animal Health Laboratory
NRE Tas
165 Westbury Road
Prospect TAS 7250

PO Box 46
Kings Meadows TAS 7249
P: 03 6777 2111

E: specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au