



**Wisconsin Veterinary  
Diagnostic Laboratory**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Necropsy: Bottle Necropsy Sampling Guidelines

The best samples are collected within 4-8 hours of death, but it's difficult to predict which cases will be diagnostic. Please collect both fresh and formalin-fixed tissues from any organ that has gross lesions. In addition, the following tissues are recommended for submission:

Organ	Formalin*	Fresh	Size Fresh Samples	Bag #
Heart	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 cm	1
Lung	Yes	Yes	6 x 6 cm	1
Liver	Yes	Yes	6 x 6 cm	2
Kidney	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 cm	2
Spleen	Yes	Yes	6 x 6 cm	3
Mesenteric Lymph Node	Yes	Yes	Collect two	3
Skeletal muscle	Yes	No		N/A
Tongue	Yes	No		N/A
Rumen	Yes	No		N/A
Abomasum	Yes	Yes	10 - 20 cm length	4
Ileum	Yes	Yes	15 - 25 cm length	5
Jejunum	Yes	No		6
Spiral Colon	Yes	Yes	10 - 20 cm length	6

\*A ~1-2 cm thick or long sample from all the organs listed above should be placed in formalin. The ideal ratio is 9 parts formalin to 1 part tissue for proper fixation. The WVDL recommends using a 16 ounce wide mouthed jar that contains 8 ounces of 10% buffered formalin (Fischer catalog # 23-426-797). Since the formalin jars tend to leak; **please place inside 1-2 ziploc bags**. If you can't formalinize tissues at the time of collection, we will do it for you. Please keep in mind that especially intestine autolyzes rapidly.

### Shipping Requirements

- Veterinarians should completely fill out the Necropsy Submission Form which includes the **age** of the animal. An electronic copy is available at [www.wvdl.wisc.edu](http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu).
- The laboratory should receive the samples within 24-36 hours.
- Package the samples with enough ice to ensure they remain **cold** during shipment. Clients should schedule shipments to avoid weekend and holiday delivery of samples.
- **WINTER SHIPMENTS:** Please add isopropyl alcohol (1:10 ratio) to the formalin for formalin fixed tissues to prevent freezing during shipment.