

Submitting and Packaging Specimens for Histopathology



How to Properly Submit a Sample

- Please complete the requisition form as follows:
 - » Clinic ID and name
 - » Veterinarian's name
 - » Patient information
 - » Relevant patient history
 - » Specimen source information
- Please mark the number of containers and specimens being sent so that we can ensure received all specimens.
- Requisition forms can be ordered by calling customer service or accessing them on our website: www.zoetisreflabs.com/customers, under "Resources."
- Pre-label the container(s) with patient's first and last name, collection date, and source of specimen.
- If sending more than one container, please ensure the requisition form and bottles are accurately labeled.
- If shipping more than one specimen from a patient, please provide a complete list of specimens so receipt of all specimens can be verified upon arrival.
- Fresh tissue must be kept cold with ice or ice packs.
- Place ice or ice packs in a separate, sealed plastic bag.
- The specimen and any forms should also be placed in separate, sealed plastic bags. Double bag, when possible.
- Ice packs and bags can break or leak during shipping, which can cause damage to forms or specimens. This may compromise specimen quality and/or cause delays in processing.



Small & Medium-sized Tissues

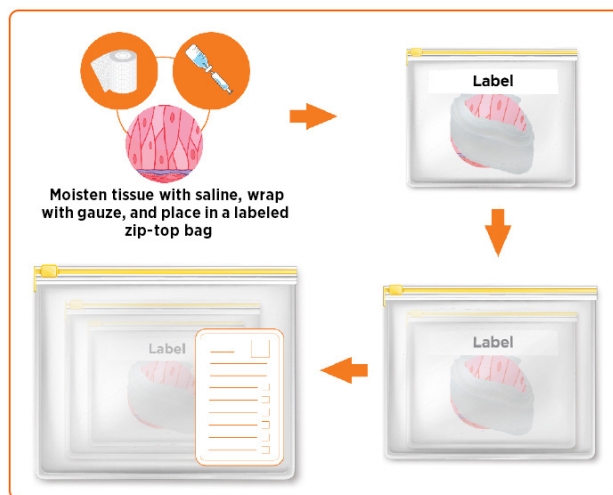
- Immediately place tissues in 10% neutral buffered formalin to ensure appropriate fixation. A 10:1 formalin to tissue ratio is recommended; however, there must be at least 1 cm gap between the top of the container and the top of formalin (with tissue in formalin) to reduce risk of spills/leakage.
- Submit tissues intact for margin examination. Disrupting or incising tissue margins without clear explanation may preclude margin assessment.
- ZRL provides rigid, straight-sided, leak-proof, screw-top containers that are approved for transporting formalin. Please contact the lab for these supplies. If the tissue does not easily fit within the supplied container, see below for how to submit large tissues.
- **Do not** use pill bottles, urine bottles, plastic food storage containers, glass jars, or other non-ZRL provided containers that are not approved for transporting formalin, as these are prone to leaking or are at risk of breaking.
- **Do not** place tissues in narrow-necked bottles as tissues are difficult to remove after fixation.
- Use only rigid, straight-sided, leak-proof, screw-top plastic containers for transporting formalin. Appropriate supplies are provided by the lab upon request.
- Seal the container and check for leaks.
- **Formalin is a toxic chemical and should be handled with care.**

- Double check that containers are labeled with patient's first and last name, collection date, and source of specimen in this specific order.
- Ensure the lid is securely tightened. Wrap Parafilm® around the lid (regular tape **does not** work). Wrap formalin jar in absorbent material and place in a sealed plastic or zip-top bag. Double bag, if possible.
- Place the requisition form in a sealed plastic bag separate from the specimen container (in case of leakage).
- Place sealed specimen container and sealed requisition form in a final sealed plastic bag.



Large Tissues, Such as Whole Spleens or Liver Lobes

- When transporting large tissues, **use saline to moisten only** – for health and safety reasons, do **not** send these samples in formalin. Place the sample in a small amount of saline, wrapping gauze around the tissue to keep moist. The laboratory will add formalin on the receiving end.
- Multiple (3 or more) securely sealed plastic or zip-top bags are recommended for large samples.
- Label the sample bag with patient's first and last name, sample site, and fluid type (saline).
- Place the test request form in a sealed plastic bag separate from the tissue sample.
- Securely seal all bags, placing absorbent padding in the outermost bag.



Limbs

- Refrigerate immediately, or store on ice. Submit limb **fresh**, in multiple (3 or more), securely sealed plastic bags, with few ice packs. Do **not** freeze or fix.
- Place the test request form in a sealed plastic bag separate from the limb.
- Radiographs and additional clinical information are appreciated and can support pathologic interpretation. They can be e-mailed to referencelabpathology@zoetis.com.

Necropsies

- Full body necropsies can only be performed on **exotic** species weighing less than 35 pounds. **Dogs, cats, and primates of any size will not be accepted.**
- Please note that bodies or ashes cannot be returned following necropsy.
- Refrigerate body and submit for necropsy as soon as possible. If refrigeration is not possible, pack body with ice packs. Do **not** freeze.
- Please call customer support for questions related to pricing or transportation.
- For larger exotics or other species, postmortem samples can be collected by a clinician and submitted in formalin as a "Necropsy in a Jar."



Please contact **Zoetis Reference Laboratories**
for any additional information or to order supplies.

888-965-9652

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www.zoetisreflabs.com