

Diagnostic Laboratory Services

Submission packaging

Review the following packaging instructions prior to shipping specimens. For specific individual specimen collection and packaging requirements call 865-974-5673 or visit our website: vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc/dls for direct laboratory phone numbers.

-----You must call ahead and check with lab for testing on primate samples-----

Specimen must be labeled with

- Patient identifier (animal's name or number)
- Test
- Date and Time of collection

Packaging Instructions

- A completed submission form must be enclosed with all submissions. Fresh blood, serum and tissues should be sent with a refrigerant pack. For biopsy, tissues should be in 10% BNF fixative. Unfixed, air-dried slides should be packaged in a slide holder with bubble wrap. The following provides a brief summary of packaging requirements. For an illustration please see the FedEx Packaging guidelines (http://www.fedex.com/us/packaging/guides/Clinical_fxcom.pdf).
- Primary container
 - Specimens should be in plastic, spill proof containers or tubes.
- Secondary Packaging
 - Place primary container in secondary packaging (i.e. biohazard bag with outer pouch).
 - Multiple samples should be wrapped individually to avoid breakage during shipment.
 - Absorbent material should be placed between the primary container and secondary package. -
- Outer Packaging-
 - Use quality packaging strong enough to withstand the shock and loading during transport.
 - Refrigerant packs should accompany specimens that require refrigeration. *Specimens requiring refrigeration and those that do not require refrigeration can be shipped together if adequate packaging material is used to separate the samples. **Do not use dry ice for FedEx shipments.***
 - Place packing material around packaged samples to minimize movement of secondary packaging.
 - Enclose submission form(s)

Hazmat / IATA Regulations

Diagnostic specimens must be packaged and shipped in accordance with regulatory standards governing bio-hazardous materials for routine specimens*. See the current edition of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations <http://www.iata.org/dangerousgoods/index> and US DOT 49 CFR Parts 171-180-<http://hazmat.dot.gov/rules.htm>. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Regulations, require all persons who offer or transport diagnostic specimens to comply with applicable regulations. Please do not hesitate to call the laboratories for further shipping instructions.

*If specimen is suspected to contain **infectious agents**, it is the shipper's responsibility to comply with international/US domestic shipping regulations: Refer to UN3373 **Biological Substances, Category B** (<http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>)

International Shipment

Import Forms are required with international shipments. An Import Form provided on the online ordering shipment page. Insert a copy of the form in the shipping label envelope on the outside and one copy inside the package.

For information on FedEx discounted shipping rates: <https://vetmed.tennessee.edu/vmc/dls/Pages/Fed-Ex-Shipping.aspx>