



Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology Services

Submission Guidelines for *Post-Mortem* Examination

We accept cadavers for *post-mortem* examination from small animals including dogs, cats, rabbits and rodents as well as birds, reptiles, fish and other small exotic species. Large animal species (farm, zoo and equine) can also be accepted. Advance notification will be required for any intended *post-mortem* submission so that we can coordinate delivery and properly manage logistics. All cases must be accompanied by a completed signed Submission Form found on our website at:

http://www.surreyvetpathology.com/sites/default/files/documents/PME_Submission_Form.pdf

Delivery of cadaver

Please contact the Veterinary Pathology Centre prior to delivery of any animal for *post-mortem* examination. Please call 01483 689823 or email vetpath@surrey.ac.uk in advance to arrange delivery of the cadaver to the following address:

**Veterinary Pathology Centre
University of Surrey
Francis Crick Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7AQ**

Our *post-mortem* examination service incorporates the following 3 areas:

1. **Post-mortem examination and basic histopathology** – All cases submitted for *post-mortem* examination will be examined by our board certified pathologists. Gross *post mortem* examination and routine histopathology for up to 5 tissues will be included in the standard fees which are based on species and weight as shown in our *post-mortem* price structure found here: <http://www.surreyvetpathology.com/pricing>
2. **Disposal** will be by either individual or communal creation – see detailed below.
3. **Additional testing** such as microbial culture may be needed in some but not all cases. Where this is demanded as part of the diagnostic process an additional fee of £25 will be charged. Any additional tests recommended in the initial report will be charged following approval by the submitting veterinary surgeon.

Turn-around time (TAT)

All *post-mortem* cases will be examined by our board certified pathologists and have gross pathology reported within 1-2 working days of the examination

Where histopathology is carried out a full report will be issued within another 2-4 working days keeping our turn-around-times as low as practicable

If we anticipate time to reporting our standard TAT from receipt we will inform you and explain the reason for the delay.

Disposal

Disposal will be by either individual or communal cremation. We cannot return animals for burial after *post-mortem* examination and we do not carry out cosmetic *post-mortem* examinations.

Communal Cremation

Routine disposal of cadavers is by communal cremation and the cost of this is based on the actual weight of the cadaver in kilograms. Prior to *post-mortem* examination animals will be weighed to give a specific final price charged. If this is significantly different to the estimated weight entered on the submission form, we will contact you.

- For animals under 10kg basic charge of £5 applies per carcass disposal
- For animals over 10kg a fee of £0.50 per kg will be charged

Individual Cremation

If an individual cremation is requested we can suggest a local pet cremation service. We have inspected this provider ourselves and have confidence in their professional standards.

Individual cremations are charged depending on species, weight and specific requirements for return of ashes. Any individual cremation will need to be arranged directly with the provider and will be subject to additional fees payable directly to the pet cremation provider. Please indicate this as a request on the Submission Form. We will liaise with the pet cremation provider regarding transfer of the cadaver.

Central Nervous System (CNS) Cases

In CNS cases where removal of brain and spinal cord is indicated a surcharge of £200 will apply in addition to the standard fees. This covers the additional time taken to carry out the *post-mortem* examination as well as the significantly increased number of histological sections that typically need to be taken and interpreted in such cases.

Litigation Cases

Potential or known legal cases requiring *post-mortem* examination and the preparation of reports for legal purposes will be discussed in advance and costs confirmed prior to submission.

Marking surgical boundaries and orientation

Where a specific boundary or orientation needs to be marked, the preferred method is to use sutures e.g. one suture marks the cranial border, two sutures mark the medial aspect. Surgical inks can also be used.

Please do not use hypodermic needles or other sharps to mark boundaries due to risk of injury to our technicians.

Teaching and Research

Materials submitted for *post-mortem* examination become the property of the University of Surrey and may be retained for diagnostic, teaching and research purposes. They may subsequently be put to good use for teaching purposes with our students and trainee pathologists, and also may contribute to further study as part of research projects where applicable. Where publications are made, any personal information will be anonymised. It is a requirement that consent for this purpose has been given by the owner - please indicate on the Submission Form that consent has been obtained or contact us prior to submission if the owner does not consent to this re-use.

Terms & Conditions

All *post-mortem* examination services offered by the University of Surrey at the Veterinary Pathology Centre are subject to our standard Terms and Conditions for the supply of Veterinary Pathology Services available on our website at: <http://www.surreyvetpathology.com/terms-and-conditions>