

IDEXX Histopathology and Microbiology Collection Guidelines

Histopathology

Transport Guidelines

- + Only use formalin-approved biopsy containers of adequate size for the specimen being submitted.
- + Use the correct type of fixative (10% buffered formalin only).
- + The formalin to specimen ratio should be 10:1, or ten parts 10% buffered formalin to one part tissue.
- + The amount of formalin used should completely cover the specimen, but should not exceed >50% of the overall volume of the container.
- + Ensure the biopsy formalin container lid is thoroughly sealed to minimise risk of leaking.
- + DO NOT submit needles or sharps of any kind with your specimens.
- + All biopsy containers should be placed in a well sealed "leak proof bag containing absorbent material.
- + Never package biopsy samples in formalin in the same bag with samples for cytology as the cytology samples will be damaged by the formalin fumes.

Histopathology Fee Policies

- + Fees are determined by number of sites, lesions or organs indicated on the requisition form.
- + Surgical margin analysis is complimentary on request.
- + Histology and cytology test codes will be changed by the laboratory to the appropriate test code for the type of sample that has been submitted. Please note, where test codes need to be changed to reflect the sample(s) submitted, this may incur an alteration in the charge

Cancellation Fee

- + No fee is applied if cancellation is requested prior to processing. If we have started processing the sample, a fee of will be charged to cover costs incurred, refer to the Directory of Products and Services for fee.

Necropsy Samples

- + IDEXX does not have an in-laboratory necropsy service, but there are a variety of options for submitting postmortem samples (Please call customer service for a list of other laboratories offering this service).

Additional Notes

- + Margins are complimentary if requested.
- + Cage Birds include budgerigars, pigeons, finches and small birds from zoological gardens or fauna parks.

- + Large birds from zoological gardens or fauna parks such as waterfowl, poultry, ostriches or emus are not considered cage birds.
- + IDEXX Histopathology Reports contain the following report sections: Gross Pathology, Histopathology, Diagnosis, Comments and Margin Analysis.
- + If a specific pathologist is requested, we will do our best to meet your request. If the specified pathologist is unavailable, we will contact you to give you the option of waiting or having another pathologist read the case to prevent any delay in processing.

Microbiology

Normal Flora, Predictable Susceptibility Patterns and Non-pathogenic Organisms

Coupled to our years of veterinary microbiology experience and our adherence to the Australian Standards, the IDEXX microbiology department offers best practice techniques and access to state-of-the-art technology.

Sterile Tubes

- + Use glass or plastic tubes with no additives. Tubes with clot activator are not acceptable for cultures because clot activator binds bacteria, which inhibits growth. EDTA tubes are not acceptable as they inhibit bacteria.
- + Fluids, urine and tissue must be submitted in sterile containers (moisten tissue samples with sterile saline to prevent drying and loss of viability).

Fluids

Make sure all collection devices containing fluids are sealed and leak proof before submitting. Note: Specimens that are >48 hours old are not suitable for culture, and loss of viability should be expected.

Culture

- + Aerobic and anaerobic cultures are performed on all blood cultures. A preliminary report is available within 24-48 hrs.
- + Dry swabs are not recommended for culture, swabs in gel transport medium are preferred. The gel medium helps to keep the bacteria alive.
- + Dry swabs are used for PCR testing, gel swabs cannot be used for PCR testing.

Please DO NOT submit syringes with needles.