Formalin-Fixed Tumor Samples
Instructions for Submission to Diagnostic Laboratory

If your pet has a tumor and you will be having it either surgically removed for biopsy or obtained at the time of euthanasia, please be sure to inform your veterinarian of the specific requests listed in this document.

Since correct diagnosis of each tumor is critical for the quality of the Repository, we recommend submitting tumors for histopathology to the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) at Michigan State University.

The Repository is also interested in collecting fresh frozen tumor samples for RNA analysis. This can be collected at the same time that the tissue is collected for histopathology. Please view the instructions for fresh-frozen tumor tissue.

Below are the instructions for the collection and shipping of a formalin-fixed tumor sample.

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND PACKAGING

- If sufficient tumor sample, obtain 1/2 of the specimen and place into a non-breakable, leak-proof container.
  - 10% NBF
  - Reinforce seal with Parafilm or sealing tape
  - Label containers appropriately
    - Owner name, animal name, date
    - Berner Garde ID if available

- Place sealed primary container into a sturdy ziplock bag or a larger secondary container containing enough absorbent material to absorb all fluid.
  - Paper towel is a good absorbent
  - Double bagging is recommended

- Place the secondary container inside of a sturdy cardboard box for shipping.
  - Fill box with packing material such as packing peanuts
  - Draw arrows on the outside of the box pointing to the top
  - Label the outside of the box with the appropriate labels required for shipping specimen
SUBMISSION FORMS

When submitting a formalin-fixed tissue for pathology, please complete the appropriate diagnostic lab submission form as well as the Repository submission form.

Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) submission form:

If you are submitting your sample to the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) at Michigan State University:

- Print the necropsy-biopsy DCPAH submittal form from DCPAH.
- Have your veterinarian complete this form and enclose with fixed tissue sample.
- Ship sample to DCPAH noting that this is a separate location from the Repository. The shipping address is found on the submittal form (link above).
- The turn-around time is generally 3-5 days for results.
- The cost for this diagnostic service is not covered by the Repository. The fee for the pathology service is billed by your veterinarian (if they submit sample) or billed directly to you if you submit the sample. Please contact DCPAH at 517-353-1683 for pricing information or to set up a billing account.
- Please also complete the Repository submission form (see below).

Repository submission form:

- Repository submission form Please print, complete all three pages, sign, and enclose this form with your sample.

SHIPPING

For submissions to the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at MSU, please visit DCPAH’s website for detailed shipping guidelines or phone 517-353-1683.

- Ship to the following address for US Mail Deliveries:
  
  DCPAH
  
  PO Box 30076
  
  Lansing, MI 48909-7576

- Ship to the following address for Courier Deliveries (Fed-Ex, UPS, Airborne, etc):
  
  DCPAH
  
  4125 Beaumont Road
  
  Lansing, MI 48910-8104
PATHOLOGY REPORTS

Once we are notified of the submission of a formalin-fixed tissue sample for pathology, we will be in contact with you to obtain a copy of this report. The diagnosis that is obtained is very useful to the Repository as it pertains to the samples that have been previously or currently submitted to the Repository from your Berner. It is greatly appreciated if you or your veterinarian could fax this report to us at 517-432-9904 (Attn: Berners).

If you or your veterinarian are submitting a copy of a pathology report at the time of sample submission (cheek swab, blood, frozen tissue), please check the appropriate box titled, “Copy of diagnostic pathology report” found on the Repository submission form.

CORRESPONDENCE

Please visit our website at: http://cvm.msu.edu/berners for further information on sample submissions.

We realize that this is a lot of information and that it is complex in nature. We also realize you are dealing with concerns about your pet’s illness at the same time. We are here to help and assist in making this as smooth of a process as possible.

Please contact the Repository with any questions you may have!
   Email: berners@cvm.msu.edu
   Phone: 517-432-9902
   Fax: 517-432-9904
   Web: http://cvm.msu.edu/berners

Thank you very much for your participation! We would appreciate any future updates regarding your pet’s change in health status. Do contact us by phone or e-mail.