



Cornell University
Animal Health Diagnostic Center

P.O. Box 5786
Ithaca, N.Y. 14852-5786
t. 607.253.3900
f. 607.253.3943
e. diagcenter@cornell.edu
w. diagcenter.vet.cornell.edu

Shipping instructions for post-mortem (necropsy) examination specimens

- Chill carcass to refrigeration temperatures before packaging.
- Wrap with inner plastic bag, preferably large zipper lock bags available in grocery stores, or leakproof bags securely sealed with plastic packing tape.
- Place inside second leakproof plastic bag, with sufficient absorbent material (disposable diapers ideal, 2 per small carcass or more if larger carcasses, turned absorbent side out) and freezer packs.
- Place inside third bag and tape shut. **Package must not leak. Leaking packages can be confiscated and destroyed and fines to the shipper could apply.** Common causes of leakage include not using leakproof bags or containers, including ice cubes or other forms of ice rather than freezer packs, and failure to use sufficient absorbent material.
- Place paperwork in gallon ziplock bag and seal.
- Place all in outer sturdy carton or shipping cooler. Outer container should be crush-proof.
- Label outside with UN3373 label, Biological Substance Category B (see reverse for example of required label; this may be photocopied, cut out, and taped on package with clear packing tape).
- If asked by shipping attendant (UPS, Postal service, or FEDEX) what is in the box, reply "Animal Diagnostic Specimens". If attendant persists in questioning contents, say "They are animal specimens. The contents are defined as Biological Substance Category B, UN3373." Do not say "whole dead animal bodies" or "whole dead chickens" or "A dead lamb/puppy/kitten/whatever", because the attendants freak out and refuse the packages, even though federal and international law clearly has provisions for these diagnostic specimens to be legally shipped.

It is strictly prohibited to ship live, sick animals via commercial couriers or the US postal service.

US Post Office address:
Animal Health Diagnostic Center
PO Box 5786
Ithaca, NY 14852-5786
607-253-3900

FEDEX or UPS Address:
Animal Health Diagnostic Center
240 Farrier Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14853
607-253-3900

Label 1: Biological Specimens

Category B: Shipping Label for Biological Substances

The label below should print with the proper dimension of an Infectious Substance label (minimum dimensions: 50 mm on a side, and the proper shipping name, "Biological Substance, Category B" must be in letters at least 6 mm high). Affix the label to the package by covering with clear plastic tape, so that moisture will not cause printer ink to run.

