

HISTOPATHOLOGY SPECIMEN SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Submit tissue specimens in supplied 10% formalin containers, when possible, using a 10:1 volume ratio.
2. When the tissue is larger than would accommodate the 10: 1 ratio and/or fit in the container, then use only wide-mouthed, leak proof and unbreakable containers. Malleable fresh tissue placed in a container becomes rigid with fixation which makes retrieval from a container with a narrow opening difficult.
3. Label sample containers with the veterinarian's name or clinic, pet's name, owner, date and specimen location/identification.
4. To maintain the orientation of large specimens but allow for adequate fixation, make partial thickness incisions. For skin specimens, incise from the skin surface rather than the subcutis in order to preserve the surgical margin.
5. Alternatively, representative ¼ inch thick sections can be submitted from very large specimens.
6. To reduce the amount of formalin to be transported for large specimens, appropriately sectioned tissue can be fixed for 24 – 48 hours in 10: 1 volume of formalin and placed in a reduced quantity of formalin for transportation.
7. All of the following can result in artifacts and/or poor specimen quality:
 - A) Insufficient volume of formalin (i.e. < 10:1 ratio)
 - B) Improper handling, including pressure (crush artifacts)
 - C) Freezing
 - D) Failure to immediately place specimen in formalin
 - E) Use of solutions other than 10% neutral buffered formalin
8. Samples from different areas should be in separately labelled containers or specifically identified, (e.g. tagged with sutures) to correspond to the history/body map.
9. Primary dermatologic conditions should have multiple biopsies submitted (4 – 8) and this will be counted as one submission. Include the border of normal and abnormal when possible and /or multiple representative areas. This does not apply to multiple skin tumors or masses.
10. Charges are based on specimen size [<2.5cm, 2.5 – 10 cm, > 10 cm] and number of tissues (see Fee Schedule). Decalcification and immunohistochemistry are additional charges.