Histopathology

**ACCURATE RESULTS DEPEND ON QUALITY SPECIMENS. PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES:**

**Histopathology tiers and price guidelines**
IDEXX operates a tiered histopathology pricing structure. All samples are manually assessed to provide you confidence in your results every time.

If you are unsure of how to code (or charge), your sample please call 1300 44 33 99 and ask to talk to the pathologist on duty to discuss your case. This will ensure a clear understanding of your needs, and will help you to select the correct samples for histopathological examination, as well as identify any need for samples for other testing (e.g., bacteriology, virology, serology, toxicology). Alternatively you may consult page 38 of this DOPS.

**Turnaround Time**
Most evaluations will be completed within 24-72 hours of receipt in our laboratory (unless otherwise indicated). Additional fixation or decalcification will take longer. We will notify you if an unusually long delay is anticipated.

**Collection Technique**
Samples are collected for histological examination by standard surgical techniques or at postmortem examination.

**Labeling Criteria**
Please ensure all specimen jars are labeled with:
- Patients name, date
- Type of specimen, (Site / Source)

**Requisition Information**
A thorough clinical history and details of the physical examination are essential for the correct histological interpretation of tissue changes. Information required includes signalment (species, breed, age, sex), a description of the appearance and distribution of lesions, duration of the condition, biopsy sites or post mortem tissue, response to prior treatments, current treatment regimes and any other relevant information.
You may include any questions to be answered on your requisition form.
Please send radiographs of bone lesions when they are being submitted for histological examination (see histopathology - bone).

**Fixation Guidelines**
Tissue samples should be fixed in 10% buffered formalin.

**Did You Know?**
- The 10:10:10 Rule? For optimum fixation and sectioning use 10% formalin; 10:1 ratio; and a biopsy size 10mm cubed
- Place specimens in a wide necked container (approved for use with formalin), with the ratio of formalin to tissue > 10:1.
- Submit entire lesions and tumours with adjacent excise tissue.
- For rapid fixation of larger lesions and tumours, cut a section 0.5-1cm wide through the centre of the specimen. Make impression smears from the cut surface of tumours and submit for cytology in a separate bag.
- Open hollow organs, such as intestine, prior to placing them in fixative.
- Small fragile specimens (bone marrow, Tru-cut liver or kidney) can be wrapped in a gauze envelope so that they do not disintegrate during transport
- High priority samples can be dispatched on the day of collection as they will fix on their way to the laboratory.
- Samples of lower priority can be fixed for 24 hours at clinic prior to dispatch to the laboratory.
## Histopathology

**Transport Guidelines**
All samples should be placed in a well sealed leak proof bag containing enough absorbent material for the volume of formalin. Fixed tissue which is to be mailed may be placed in a leak proof plastic bag or container with a formalin soaked gauze to keep the tissue moist. (Ensure adequate fixation has occurred prior to transportation)

**Histopathology Fee Policies**
Fees are determined by number of sites, lesions or organs indicated on the requisition form.
For ‘Single Tissue’ biopsies prices are quoted per anatomical site.
If the number of sites/lesions is not indicated, we will assume each specimen is from a different site, and will charge separately.
Surgical margin analysis does not attract an additional fee.

**Cancellation Fee**
No fee is applied if cancellation is requested prior to processing.
If we have started processing the sample, a fee of $30 Ex GST will be charged to cover costs incurred.

**Necropsy Samples**
IDEXX no longer offers in-laboratory necropsy service, but there are a variety of options for submitting necropsy 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**
IDEXX follows guidelines set by NATA, combined with our years of experience in performing susceptibility testing.
We believe these are “best practice” microbiology techniques, and would be happy to discuss the following policies with you.

**Sterile Tubes**
Use glass or plastic tubes with no additives. Plastic yellow-topped tubes with clot activator are not acceptable for cultures because clot activator binds bacteria, which inhibits growth.
Fluids, urine and tissue can be submitted in sterile containers (moisten tissue with sterile saline or water 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.

**Blood Culture**
Aerobic and anaerobic cultures are performed on all blood cultures. A preliminary report is available within 24-48 hrs.

**Please DO NOT submit syringes with needles.**