Standard Operating Procedure

SOP Number: 02-18-5753
Service: Research
Operating Section: Diagnostic Laboratory
Unit: CMF
Title: Animal Necropsy Procedures

Purpose:
To describe the procedures to be followed when performing a necropsy.

Procedure:
1) Upon PI or veterinary request, the Laboratory Coordinator or Veterinarian will perform a gross prosection, collect samples for supportive studies if needed, and document gross findings as soon as possible following death of an animal. A complete necropsy may include:
   a) Photograph of animal carcass with ruler to demonstrate size or external physical abnormalities if needed.
   b) External gross examination noting overall animal condition and any lesions.
   c) Removal of identification chip if requested.
   d) After careful opening of the abdominal cavity, collect and/or observe the following:
      i) Collect abdominal swabs for culture when indicated.
      ii) Observe gross appearance of all internal organs and record any abnormalities on the gross pathology report. Note any blood or pus in the cavity; abnormal size, color, or lesions of internal organs, or masses.
      iii) Take photographs as appropriate.
      iv) Collect samples when indicated.
         (a) Samples for freezing should be placed in cryogenic tubes and labeled with lab accession number and tissue type.
         (b) Samples for histology should be placed in 10% buffered formalin and labeled with lab accession number and tissue type.
2) If warranted, tissues will be submitted for histological processing. Slides will be evaluated by a veterinary pathologist.
3) Other supportive studies may include:
   a) Parasitology
   b) Hematology
   c) Chemistry
   d) Bacteriology
   e) Virology
   f) Urinalysis
4) The Laboratory Coordinator will collate all results into a final pathology report which will be submitted to the veterinarian and saved to the CMF shared drive.

APPROVALS

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Lab 5753
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