

Standard Tissue Preparation for Shipment

Histology Services

IDEXX BioAnalytics recognizes that sample quality is directly correlated to the quality of slides and/or pathological report you will receive. In order to receive the best results, we recommend following the guidelines for tissue collection, preservation and shipping. Please contact us with questions about our standard practices or to discuss customized protocols for your upcoming study.

Contact your local Account Manager, or Client Support Services at 1-800-669-0825 or idxbioanalytics@idexx.com for further assistance.

Collected Sample Preparation

- Place tissues in formalin for at least 24 hours before shipment. Tissue to formalin ratio should be 1 to 20 for proper fixation. Whole rodent and tissues such as lung, brain, bone marrow and spinal cord have specialized collection protocols.
- Make sure tissues are not tightly packed in jars or cassettes. Smaller tissues can be placed in a cassette or submitted attached to surrounding organs.
- Label cassettes with a pencil. Even indelible ink will fade during processing.
- Tissues can be shipped in 70% alcohol or formalin. If you plan to perform IHC testing after preparation, please consult with our Client Support Services team for the proper fixation protocol.
- Store fixed samples at room temperature. Frozen samples must be stored and shipped on dry ice.

Packing for Shipment

To preserve sample integrity and prevent leakage samples should be triple-bagged with each layer tied, knotted or secured individually.

- Screw-topped containers are preferred. Make sure the lid is tightly secured to the jar and place a layer of Parafilm or tape to secure the lid to the jar.
- Invert the jar to check for leaks and reseal if needed.
- Place jar(s) into one gallon sealable bag with absorbent material such as paper towels and seal the bag.
- Place samples in a sealable bag in a second sealable bag and seal or double-line (one bag inside of another) the shipping box with large garbage bags and tie off each bag separately.
- Prior to knotting the first garbage bag, place absorbent packing materials around the bagged samples to not only absorb any leaked fluid but to prevent jostling and stabilize samples during shipment.
- If sample jars are too large to seal in a one gallon sealable bag, you can also use garbage bags to triple line the shipping container. Absorbent material should be placed around the samples in the first garbage bag prior to tying a knot in the bag.
- Place the Histology Submission Form(s) or online submission packing slip and other supporting documents (if needed) on the outside of the second garbage bag. Do not tape the inventory form to the outside of the box or place with samples in the same sealable bag.

We welcome you to submit diagrams or other special instructions if you would like to customize your study.

We also have experience with a wide variety of research animal models. Consult with us to help determine the best collection and shipping protocol for your research application.



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At IDEXX BioAnalytics we're dedicated to supporting your research needs by providing fast, accurate and reliable results— along with expert consultation you can access directly, for even greater insight. IDEXX BioAnalytics delivers **comprehensive animal health monitoring, biological materials testing and preclinical services** so you can test with confidence.

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Client Support Services (US)
 1-800-669-08251
idxxbioanalytics@idexx.com
idxxbioanalytics.com

