

Pathology service at the IZW

On request, the pathology section of the *Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW)* offers macroscopic and histo-pathological investigations of carcasses and tissue samples from zoo and wildlife animals. Necropsies are performed on submitted carcasses, and depending on macroscopic findings tissue samples are taken for further histo-pathological examination.

Please note: Investigations are not performed on privately owned exotic animals - these will immediately be referred to commercial pathology centers.

1. Requirements regarding sample collection and samples

For each carcass or tissue sample the following information has to be provided:

- Animal species, age and ID number
- Clinical history, treatment and suspected diagnosis
- Kind and location of the sampling site

A form for submission (Necropsy Request) can be found in the Appendix to this document.

Requirements for sample shipment:

Before carcasses can be submitted to the IZW, the shipment has to be announced to and confirmed by pathology personnel. All samples (carcasses + tissue samples) have to be accompanied by the Necropsy Request form in the Appendix to this document.

In case that samples are shipped from outside of Germany, please check whether any CBD, CITES or veterinary permits are required and provide appropriate documentation.

Carcasses:

- Carcasses less than 0.1 kg should be frozen and shipped frozen (dry ice).
- Carcasses from 0.1 kg to 10 kg can be frozen or cooled until and during transport.
- Carcasses above 10 kg must be cooled until and during transport.

All carcasses have to be transported according to the legal requirements concerning efficient hygiene measures and prevention of pathogen transmission.

Tissue samples:

- Depending on size and requested investigations, tissue samples for histo-pathology should be fixed only in 4% or 10% formalin solutions.
- For histo-pathology with additional microbiological investigations, samples must be submitted in a cooled or frozen state.

- All samples must be sent in doubly sealed containers.
- Samples sent via airplane have to be transported in accordance with IATA regulations.

2. Limitations

Carcasses collected and submitted with a considerable time lag after death or subjected to inappropriate shipment conditions will quickly be rendered unsuitable for pathological investigations, even if the outer appearance might indicate otherwise. Necropsies will be attempted, but further investigations will not be performed if decomposition is advanced.

3. Costs

The costs of the pathological analyses are dependent on sample material and state of the sample. Please contact us in advance for a cost estimate.

4. Customer risks

The sender is responsible for appropriate hygiene during shipment as well as the degree of carcass decomposition until delivery to the IZW. Since sample quality has a strong impact on the outcome of pathological investigations, the IZW cannot guarantee a meaningful result.

5. Warranties

Delivery and handling time of samples will be estimated upon consultation. Information on the results of macroscopic examinations will be provided via phone or E-mail shortly after necropsy. Histo-pathological investigations are case-dependent.

6. Quality management

All investigations are performed by trained pathology personnel. Final diagnoses are established by certified veterinary pathologists continuously undergoing advanced training.

Depending on pathological findings and/or specific questions, tissue samples can be stored and submitted for further investigations if requested by the owner.

7. Contact

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Necropsy request

Date:

Sender:

IZW necropsy no.:

Date:

Do not fill in !!!

Animal species:

ID no.:

Name:

Gender:

Age:

Date of birth:

Time of death date/hour:

Euthanized date/hour: with:

Clinical anamnesis:

Clinical (suspected) diagnose:

Important lab results / investigations:

Treatment: (Antibiotics: yes / no)

Further animals: yes / no also diseased: yes / no

Animal kept: out doors / indoors / both

Further investigations requested (please tick box):

Bacteriology

Mycology

Virology in external lab (after telephone consultation)

Signature