

Guidelines for Use of VMDL Necropsy Facility and Animal Disposal Service for Research and Non-VMDL Teaching Purposes

The Necropsy Facility, including the dock, cooler and incinerator, is critical to the teaching, service and research missions of the VMDL and CVM as a whole. To ensure successful operations of the VMDL and facilitate collaborations between the VMDL and other units or institutions, the following procedures must be followed when using the necropsy facility for research and educational activities which are outside the scope of disease diagnosis and pathology teaching.

A. Research Animal Necropsy and/or Carcass Disposal

Choose this option when necropsy of research animals and/or disposal of research animal remains is needed without an investigator-generated research tissue collection protocol.

Necropsy will NOT be performed if the case is not suitable for disease diagnosis and pathology teaching.

1. Submit a completed Research Animal Necropsy, Disposal and Facility Use Submission Form (RCV-F-053), with the submitter contact information, requested service (Necropsy or Disposal), and method of disposal clearly marked, to VMDL Receiving at the time diagnostic service is requested.
2. To obtain pertinent diagnostic results, provide information outlining the research.
3. The duty-pathologist will work on the case according to his or her teaching and service schedule.
4. Case materials (fresh and fixed tissues, blocks, and slides) are property of the VMDL.

B. Utilization of the Necropsy Facility for Research

Choose this option when investigators prefer to perform dissections, when dissections must be performed at a specific time, when special procedures are involved, and/or some or all samples have to be transported to another location.

Utilization of the necropsy facility requires each of the following conditions be met.

1. Preapproval: submit a completed VMDL Necropsy Facility and Animal Disposal Service Use Preapproval Form (VMDL-F-127) to VMDL Director's Office at least 30 days (7 days in instances not initially anticipated) prior to use of the facility for each project. This procedure ensures the availability of the Necropsy Facility and diagnostic personnel for the task.
2. If the use is approved, submit a completed Research Animal Necropsy, Disposal and Facility Use Submission Form (RCV-F-053) to the VMDL Receiving at the time the facility is used.
3. All investigators and students need to sign in and out when the necropsy is done. A visitor's sign-in form will be available in the Receiving.
4. All investigators and students must wear appropriate personal protective equipment while working or observing in the necropsy room, and the area left clean after use.
5. Upon completion of procedures, place appropriate "INCINERATE" or "RENDER" stickers on animal remains; place the animal remains with stickers in the cooler; and record requested information on the log sheet on the table by the dock doors. Smaller carcasses can be placed in red barrels for incineration or gray barrels if approved for rendering.

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6. When investigators perform dissections independently of VMDL faculty, they are encouraged to use their own equipment and supplies. If intended for use, training on the electric hoist, band saw and/or cooler placement must have been completed previously if these instruments are to be used. Training is arranged with and conducted by VMDL personnel. Individuals using the Necropsy Facility must be trained on information contained in PATH-IG-200 Cooler Management, and PATH-MET-223, if using the hoist.

C. Utilization of the VMDL Necropsy Facility for Learning and Teaching

1. For Non-VMDL learning/training demonstrations, please submit a completed VMDL Necropsy Facility and Animal Disposal Service Use Preapproval Form (VMDL-F-127) to the VMDL Director's Office for each academic year.
2. The Necropsy Facility may not be available for use during scheduled sophomore pathology laboratories, autumn semester, or during weekly rounds held on Friday at 3:30 PM. Please check ahead of time.
3. All individuals who are demonstrating surgical or other skills, are required to sign in and out of necropsy room. A visitor's sign-in form is available in the Receiving.
4. All individuals working in the necropsy facility must wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
5. If intended for use, training on the electric hoist and/or cooler placement must be completed previously if these instruments are to be used. Individuals using the Necropsy Facility must be trained on PATH-IG-200 Cooler Management, and PATH-MET-223, if using the hoist.
6. Individuals using the Necropsy Facility are strongly encouraged to identify individual VMDL pathologists as their mentors/collaborators and to NOT perform procedures after hours, unless their VMDL pathologist mentors/collaborators have agreed to be present.
7. If individuals prefer working independently in the VMDL Necropsy facility, the VMDL will not be held liable for any injuries and damaged equipment is expected to be replaced by users or repaired at the user's expense.

D. VMDL Necropsy Facility Use Fees

1. For research animal necropsy cases submitted following the procedures in option A (above), an appropriate necropsy fee (see Summary List of Services & Fees VMDL-I-002) will be charged. No additional disposal or facility use fee will be added.
2. For disposal of research animals, a disposal fee will be charged at the rate of \$50 per hundred pounds or portion thereof if individual animals weigh less than 100 pounds, or \$50 per animal exceeding 100 pounds. Equine carcass disposal fee is \$180.
3. When the necropsy room is utilized for research purposes WITHOUT formal collaboration with VMDL faculty, a \$50 per animal facility use fee will be charged. In addition, a disposal fee will be charged as outlined above (**D.2**).
4. Non-VMDL personnel should seek out a VMDL collaborator for Necropsy Facility use fee to be reduced or waived.
5. Utilization of the Necropsy Facility for learning and teaching is free of charge.