



**Wisconsin Veterinary
Diagnostic Laboratory**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Necropsy: Ruminant Abortion Sampling Guidelines

The ideal samples are those that are collected within 8-12 hours of fetal expulsion although samples collected 1-2 days after abortion may still yield useful information. Submit either the entire fetus and placenta or **both** fresh and formalin fixed tissues as outlined below:

Organ	Formalin*	Fresh	Suggested Size Fresh Samples
Brain	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm
Heart	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm
Lung [†]	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm
Abomasal Contents** [†]	No	Yes	Collect in a capped 3 mL syringe
Liver [†]	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm
Kidney	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm
Placenta [†] (include cotyledons)	Yes	Yes	4 x 4 x 2 cm

* If possible, collect approx. 2 x 2 x 1 cm piece of tissue from each of the organs listed and place in formalin. The ratio should be 9 parts formalin to 1 part tissue for proper fixation. The WVDL recommends using a 16 ounce wide mouthed jar that contains 8 ounces of 10% buffered formalin (Fischer catalog # 23-426-797). Since the formalin jars tend to leak; **please place the formalin jar inside a Ziploc® bag.**

** Please collect abomasal contents aseptically to prevent contaminated samples. Syringes capped with a needle are NOT acceptable means for a capped syringe. Please send abomasal contents in a well sealed syringe or transfer these contents aseptically to a red top test tube. Please make sure the test tube is appropriately labeled with specimen type.

[†] Denotes essential tissue for submission.

Shipping Requirements

- Veterinarians should completely fill out the Necropsy Submission Form which includes the **age** of the animal. An electronic copy is available at www.wvdl.wisc.edu. Click on the Submission and Order Forms link to download the submission form.
- The laboratory should receive the samples within 24-36 hours so samples collected on Friday should be refrigerated and shipped on Monday.
- Package the samples with a sufficient number of ice packs to ensure they remain **cold** during shipment.
- Check out our special shipping rates [here](#).

- **WINTER SHIPMENTS:** Please add isopropyl alcohol (1:10 ratio) to the formalin for formalin fixed tissues to prevent freezing during shipment.