

## Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

### Specimen collection tips:

- Cut the tissue sample using clean decisive strokes with a sharp scalpel blade, razor blade, knife or scissors. Sawing motion with a blade damages tissues.
- Specimens should be < 0.5 cm thick in at least one plane. If in cassettes, tissue should not touch the walls or lid of the cassettes for proper fixation.
- Minimize tissue handling with forceps (especially rat-toothed forceps) and fingers which can distort histologic features. Likewise, do not scrape mucosal surfaces (i.e. intestine, trachea) with blades or fingers to remove debris.
- Immerse sample directly into fixative to prevent desiccation. Maintain a 10:1 ratio of fixative to tissue volume for proper fixation.

### Specimen submission guidelines:

- Label specimen containers with unique specimen IDs, the tissues/organs they contain, and type of fixative. If submitting tissues in cassettes, each cassette should be labeled with a unique specimen ID number using **PENCIL** on a **FLAT** side. Inks, including permanent marker, are removed by the alcohols used in tissue processing and the front (“angled”) side of the cassette is utilized by the histotechnician to record the pathology accession number for future reference.
- Containers with formalin **MUST** have formalin-hazard labels affixed.
- Specimen containers must be leak-proof, clean, and dry.
- Submit a completed accession form with the specimens. If histopathologic analysis is desired, please provide thorough information regarding study design, the experimental groups and treatment course, & clinical signs and gross lesions in animals and tissues. The Comparative Pathology Laboratory website “FAQ” (<http://sites.udel.edu/canrcpl/2011/11/29/faq/>) provides additional details.
- Please drop off specimens to the laboratory during normal business hours. If no one is available in the laboratory, specimens can be left with the staff in the Dept. of Animal & Food Sciences Office in room 044 Townsend Hall (immediately across the sidewalk from WorriLOW Hall).