

Post-mortem Submission Form – Terms & Conditions

These are the Terms referred to in the submission form for Post-mortem to be undertaken by the University of Bristol. The post-mortem will not proceed unless the Submission Form has been properly completed and these Terms are accepted unconditionally.

Points for the submitter

1. It is the responsibility of the submitting veterinarian to include in the submission a comprehensive summary of the relevant clinical history including the results of any diagnostic tests
2. It is the responsibility of the submitting veterinarian to ensure the owner is aware of and has agreed to the terms of the post-mortem examination.
3. The veterinary surgeon must ensure that the client has been fully advised of the scope of the post-mortem examination and/or any limitations to manage client expectations. This should include not only the financial implications of that request, but also that the findings might prove inconclusive.
4. In all cases the relevant permissions and disposal boxes must be ticked.
5. If any component of the submission is not completed in full or if a sufficient clinical history is not provided, then the post-mortem examination will not proceed.
6. The post-mortem service is administered and provided by the University of Bristol veterinary pathology staff. The University will provide the PM report to the submitting veterinary practice who will be responsible for sending the report to the owner. The University staff will not correspond directly with the owner.
7. For biosecurity and legal purposes, the remains of the animal will only be returned to the owner after cremation (if this is requested on the submission form) via a licensed operator.
8. The owner should be aware that the remains of their pet will only be returned after cremation (where requested) and that the ashes may be reduced in volume due to any tissue sampling.
9. Photographs may be taken during the post-mortem examination to document findings. Subsequently these images may be also used (after being anonymised) for educational purposes.
10. Once a pet has been submitted to the PM service it will not be feasible to have a keep sake sample (such as a sample of hair or a paw print) collected and returned to the owner.

PERMISSION TO COLLECT AND RETAIN TISSUES / SAMPLES AT POSTMORTEM

The following describe the additional uses to which tissue and other samples may be used where the appropriate permissions have been given on the submission form:

Diagnostic

Permission is being granted for diagnostic samples to be taken and retained for diagnostic test(s). Examples include, but are not limited to, tissue samples for histopathology or cytology, body fluid samples for biochemical or haematological analysis, swabs or tissue samples for investigation of infectious agents.

Research

Permission is being granted for samples to be taken and retained for research purposes. This may be for a specific research project related to a condition that the animal was suffering from, or it may be for an unrelated project (e.g. control samples from unaffected animals may be required for a research project).

Teaching

Permission is being granted for samples to be retained for the purpose of teaching. This may include samples that are retained and preserved as examples of disease conditions or normal tissues/organs. In some cases, samples may be collected for further analysis to assist teaching. The results of such additional analyses are not expected to be formally reported.