Instructions for Submitting Birds for Necropsy

Live Birds
- Deliver in person to the Laboratory
  OR
- Consult the US Postal Service for regulations about shipping live birds

Dead Birds
- In general
  - May be delivered in person, by courier, or shipping firm
  - Should be received by the Laboratory within 5 calendar days if refrigerated quickly after death

- To prepare the bird for shipment
  - Wet its feathers with soapy water (this breaks down the insulation layer and avoids spoiling the carcass); do not dry
  - Place the bird in plastic bag, seal, and immediately keep it cooled or refrigerated (i.e. not frozen)
    - Note: without chilling, decomposition begins immediately and decreases the likelihood of an accurate necropsy

- To prepare the package for shipment
  - Leave the bird in its sealed, plastic bag
  - Place the bagged bird and a few ice packs (e.g. blue ice) within a second plastic bag and seal
  - Place the bundle in:
    - an inexpensive, leak proof foam cooler, such as those found at a grocery store, and then place in a cardboard box
      OR
    - a cardboard box with additional, loosely wadded paper for extra insulation
  - Complete the “Accession Form for Avian Diagnostics” located at: http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts_waddl/forms/AHFSLAccessionForm001revised.pdf
  - Place the completed Accession form in the box and seal appropriately
  - Address the box to:
    WSU Avian Health and Food Safety Laboratory
    2607 W. Pioneer
    Puyallup, WA 98371-4990
  - Mail or ship the package overnight
    - Remember: Do not ship on Friday, Saturday or immediately before a holiday to ensure prompt delivery before the coolant is exhausted

If you have additional questions or concerns, please call the laboratory:
253-445-4537
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.