

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.

