

Biopsy Instructions For Veterinarians

Each case is unique, please consult one of our specialists before consulting your veterinarian

1. Pet Preparation

Use appropriate anesthesia and/or sedation as required. Apply general anesthesia if the pet's health permits. In case of local anesthesia, please obtain the biopsy sample from the farthest possible site from the site of anesthesia application.

2. Aseptic Preparation of Biopsy Site

The biopsy area must be shaved and cleansed with a series of betadine, chlorhexidine and alcohol scrubs. **THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT STEP** as contamination of the biopsy sample may lead to undesirable results. Hair can be a source of contamination in samples. The biopsy area should be covered with a sterile drape if applicable. Thoroughly sterilize all instruments necessary for the biopsy procedure.

3. Biopsy Procedure Guidelines

- ◆ You will need 3 to 4 refrigerated vials for pre-mortem biopsy (6 to 8 for post-mortem biopsy). Remove vials from the refrigerator no more than half hour before surgery. You will also need one bag of Parafilm Sealing Tape strips for use after the samples are placed into the vials.
- ◆ Biopsy samples should be obtained from the ventral abdomen in standard aseptic fashion.
 - **If the dog is alive**, 2 biopsy samples (**about the size of an American Nickel coin**) per vial should be prepared. Biopsy of the skin (epidermal tissue) is preferred.
 - **If the dog has passed away**, 3-4 biopsy samples per vial should be prepared. Biopsies of the skin (epidermal tissue) as well as muscle tissue (in separate vials) are preferred. To clarify, in the case of a deceased companion (post-mortem), we recommend collection of 6-8 vials total: 3-4 vials containing epidermal tissues and 3-4 vials containing muscle tissues. Each vial contains 3-4 biopsy samples, or 'punches.' Please keep the body of the companion refrigerated (not freezing) until confirmation as additional biopsies may be necessary.
- ◆ Store each biopsy sample in a separate sterile vial containing sterile saline (or PBS) containing 1% antibiotic solution (Pen-Strep or Gentamicin but not Baytril). Blood tubes without anticoagulant as well as 50 mL tubes and specimen cups can be used.
- ◆ Store vials in the refrigerator but **DO NOT FREEZE**.
- ◆ The biopsy site should be closed using appropriate suture materials.

4. Tools and Technique

- ◆ Use a 8 mm biopsy punch tool for all samples. Please rinse the tool in alcohol between each biopsy.
- ◆ The instrument is rotated on the surface of the skin until it cuts through all the layers, including the epidermis, dermis, and the most superficial parts of the subcutis. If biopsy remains in the tool, remove with sterile forceps. If biopsy fails to separate from the subcutis, remove with sterile forceps and scalpel.
- ◆ If a 8 mm punch tool is not available, biopsy can also be performed using surgical scissors.
- ◆ Appropriate suture material should be used to close each biopsy site.

5. Biopsy Handling

- ◆ **ALWAYS** use sterile techniques within a sterile operating field. Sterility must be maintained for all vials.
- ◆ Using a sterile technique, close each vial after each biopsy sample is placed inside. Seal each vial with Parafilm Sealing Strip/Zip-lock Bag.
- ◆ Place the vials into a refrigerator maintained between 2° and 5°C (35° to 41°F) until they are ready to ship. Please change the solution to a fresh 1% antibiotic saline solution on a daily basis until transportation.