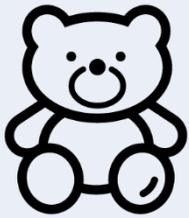


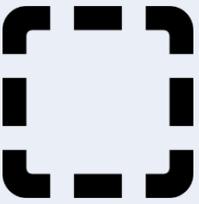
Laboratory Submissions: NAUGHTY vs Nice!

To get the most out of your diagnostic laboratory dollars, avoid these common pitfalls, and stay off your pathologist's "naughty" list!



I'm Stuffed!

Some things you really want to stuff – turkeys, peppers, mushrooms, pillows... Your tiny histo jar is NOT one of them. Remember: 1 part tissue to 10 parts formalin. Really. Yes, really. That's like 1 grape in a small jar. If you're sampling multiple masses, use multiple jars, and label each one according to the body map on your submission. No sweat!



Skimping on the Goods

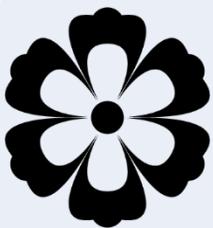
When it comes to necropsies and biopsies, don't be stingy with your samples. Sample often and generously. For necropsies, make up your tissue wish-list in advance so you don't miss anything. Remember, there are no second chances when it comes to necropsy samples (and it doesn't cost any more to send a complete set of organ samples!).



"MacGyver-Style" Samples

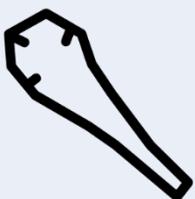
Sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do to get the job done, but when the result is samples ending up in whatever packaging was handy at the time (from pop bottles to sandwich bags to chip cans), you only make MacGyver proud – and you make getting a diagnosis really hard!

- FOF (fear of formalin): Formalin is a hazardous chemical, so don't keep it or send it in anything but a proper leak-proof screw-top container. Leave the improv to Mac.
- Bottle necks: Remember that formalin fixed tissue firms and expands, making it impossible to extract from bottles with narrow necks. See FOF above.



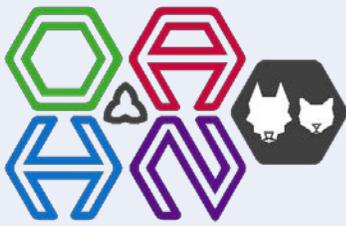
Don't Be Cruel

Pulling, crushing, or tearing your sample like you're tenderizing a steak makes it a lot harder to get a histological diagnosis. Especially with small samples like biopsies, every micrometer of tissue can make a difference. Handle tissues like delicate flowers.



Writing Like a Caveman

Let's face it, veterinarians aren't known for their outstanding penmanship. Compound the problem with writing on tiny labels on curved surfaces, and rushing to get that submission form done before the courier arrives... But if it can't be read, it may all be for naught. So please: Label. Everything. Clearly. And wouldn't it be great if you could fill out the submission info on your computer or smartphone? Wait a minute, you already can! Call the lab if you have any questions about digital submissions.



Laboratory Submissions: Naughty vs NICE!

Get the best bang for your diagnostic laboratory buck with these simple tips, and to make it onto your pathologist's "nice" list!



Location Location Location

Different tissue / body sites require different plating methods. For the best results, be sure to provide the sample site, as well as any clinical suspicions about what you think might be there. 50% of companion animal bacteriology samples are submitted with no sample site provided.



Be Prepared!

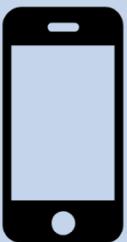
It's not just the Boy Scout motto. We all know there are some animals that will barely give you a first chance, let alone a second chance to get the sample you need. Double check the requirements for the test you want to run BEFORE you start collecting samples, or call the lab to verify if you're unsure. Your patients (and your techs) will also thank you.



Padding, Proofing, Packing

Ever get your luggage back from an airline and wonder what on earth happened to it since the last time you saw it? Trauma in transit can happen to lab samples too, so give them a little extra protection before sending them out the door:

- No clinking glasses: Use extra padding for glass sample tubes (e.g. wrap them each in a paper towel)
- Screw it: Use leak-proof containers AND screw the lid on tight (especially those formalin jars!)
- Double-up: Put containers in an additional leak-proof bag (e.g. WhirlPak) for extra protection
- Ice ice baby: Use more ice packs than you think you need



Phone a Friend

If you aren't clear on the diagnosis, aren't sure about your report, or just need more information, who ya gonna call? Your friendly neighbourhood pathologist at the lab! They ain't afraid of no questions!



Keeping It Fresh!

Sometimes lab tests lead to more questions than answers, and sometimes those questions require additional samples (also see Be Prepared! above). You can save some fresh morsels in your own sample freezer and submit them later if needed, or it's FREE to send an extra WhirlPak of fresh tissue to the lab to "HOLD", along with your other samples.