



FULL NECROPSY SERVICE (SEATTLE AREA ONLY)

For veterinarians in the Seattle area, we offer a full necropsy service. Bodies will be picked up from your clinic and a full gross post-mortem examination performed on that same day or on the following morning. A preliminary report with major gross findings will be distributed within 24 hrs. Final reports may take up to 2 weeks for completion.

A completed necropsy form should accompany all cases submitted for necropsy (forms are available for download under specimen submission). Please provide as much of the following information as possible:

- A concise statement of the patient's clinical complaint and present history
- An appropriate past history including any medications and/or prior treatments
- The clinical diagnoses or a list of differential diagnoses
- Any recent clinical laboratory testing and/or results of diagnostic imaging
- Notification of possible zoonotic disease risk, if suspected
- For neurologic cases or cases of unexpected death, please provide rabies vaccination history

When submission of the body will be delayed (such as when patients die overnight, or for cases awaiting owner consent), the body should be kept chilled to delay autolysis. If adequate refrigerated space is not available, bodies can be packed with ice or ice packs. Freeze artifact can obscure or destroy important lesions, and should be avoided whenever possible.

The cost of a necropsy depends on both animal weight and necropsy complexity. In some cases, a conclusive diagnosis can be made on the basis of only a gross examination. Others require histopathology, which may be limited or extensive. Examination of brain and spinal cord is indicated in some but not all cases. All necropsies can be performed cosmetically, though additional charges may apply. A more specific estimate will be provided on a case by case basis. Please contact Dr. Ward at 206-245-8426 if you have a case you would like to submit for necropsy.