



**MORRIS
ANIMAL
FOUNDATION**

**GOLDEN RETRIEVER
LIFETIME STUDY**

GUIDE FOR AFTER-HOURS NECROPSY DECISIONS

We understand that a necropsy procedure may not be possible under some circumstances, despite advanced planning. When a dog dies suddenly and your veterinarian is unavailable, we recommend an abbreviated necropsy procedure if it can be conducted within 12-24 hours post-mortem.

Cool Temperatures, But Not Frozen

Keep the remains cool (refrigeration temperature) but not frozen. This preserves the tissue and avoids formation of ice crystals.

- Wrap the body in a blanket and place in an attached garage or basement (cool outside temperatures).
- Place the body in the coolest room of the house (warm outside temperatures).
- If the remains are accidentally frozen, your vet can still proceed with the necropsy procedure but should limit tissue collection.

Abbreviated Necropsy (12-24 hours post-mortem)

The priority for the research study under unplanned circumstances is to understand contributing causes of death and to collect samples from any observed tumors, along with adjacent, apparently normal tissue.

- Tissue should be collected in formalin using a container (or containers) with a tight-fitting lid. Use 10 parts of formalin to 1 part tissue, by volume.
- Once tissue is in formalin, it is “fixed” and stable for several days. This is an excellent time for the veterinarian to contact the Study team. The team can provide shipping labels and additional instructions.

Equipment & Supplies

Necropsy kits can be mailed via FedEx’s priority overnight service Monday - Thursday. Kits that are overnighted on Fridays will arrive Monday.

If a necropsy kit is available, use the labeled containers, shipping labels, Zoetis histopathology order form and data collection form. Antech kits can be used so long as the shipping labels and forms are replaced.

If a necropsy kit is not available, documents and a shipping label can be emailed to the veterinarian.



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CONTACTING THE STUDY TEAM

Please inform the Study team of dog death as soon as possible at grdogs@caninelifetimehealth.org or 855-447-3647.

Study team hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 am – 4:00 pm MT and Wednesday, Friday 7:00 am – 12:00 pm MT.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is a necropsy required?

No - you always have the option to forgo this sampling. We always ask that you do what feels most comfortable for you given the situation at hand.

Do I need to complete a full necropsy?

No. We would like to prioritize the tumor(s) and adjacent healthy tissue if applicable. See page 8 of the necropsy instruction manual for a list of the core tissues.

Does my necropsy have to be done at a university?

No. If you choose to go to a university, please ensure they know to release the report and samples to the Study.

Does my necropsy have to be done by a Study veterinarian?

No, but please ensure they have a necropsy kit and submit to our associated laboratory.

If a necropsy is performed, can a dog still be buried or cremated?

Yes - the dog can still be cremated. Make sure the vet knows ahead of time. The dog may still be buried with a cosmetic necropsy.

How much of the necropsy cost is covered?

The Study allots up to \$500 of reimbursement for biopsy and/or necropsy over a Hero's lifetime.