



# Standard Operating Procedures



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Name of Policy:	Necropsy for Domestic Animals Protocol	Departments:	ER
Category & No.:	LAB 1.2	Effective by:	January 16, 2025
Version No.:	2	Revision History:	Revised 1/16/2025

**Purpose:** To create a uniform process for necropsy submissions for domestic animals

**Background Information:** There are multiple laboratories that can perform necropsies on domestic animals. For simplicity moving forward, we will refer all pet owners that are seeking necropsies to the NJ State lab. As an outside service, this process needs to be handled directly by the families that are requesting it.

## Procedure:

1. Mount Laurel Animal Hospital does not offer in-house necropsies. If an owner wishes to have a necropsy performed on their pet, we are to refer them to the [NJ Animal Health Diagnostic Lab](#) (see website below). This lab can perform necropsies on most animal species other than non-human primates.
2. Owners are responsible for filling out all request forms to request the necropsy and delivering their pet to the necropsy lab.
3. All animals the need to be stored prior to submission should be refrigerated and not frozen. ANIMALS CANNOT BE STORED AT MLAH, we do not have the storage space to keep deceased animals refrigerated.
4. Necropsies cannot be requested by MLAH doctors directly, though they may suggest to the owner to pursue one. If there is interest in a specific case for learning purposes, a post-mortem sample can be taken from the tissue of interest and submitted to Antech, rather than a complete necropsy.

**References:** <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/ahdl/sample/>