

Necropsy Instructions

If your hedgehog passes away and you suspect a genetic issue or Wobbly Hedgehog Syndrome (WHS), it is crucial to have a necropsy performed as soon as possible. This will help confirm the cause of death and provide valuable insights for breeders and the hedgehog community.

Follow these steps carefully:

Step 1: Prepare the Hedgehog

- Place your hedgehog in a large, labeled Ziploc bag.
- Refrigerate the bag immediately. Do not freeze, as freezing can compromise tissue quality needed for a thorough necropsy.

Step 2: Prepare the Shipping Box

1. Line a small box with puppy training pads.
2. Wrap an ice pack in a puppy pad, ensuring the absorbent side is on top to manage moisture.
3. Place the hedgehog on the wrapped ice pack and add more training pads around it.
4. Roll everything together into a secure “burrito” shape and tape it to hold the contents in place.

Step 3: Package for Shipping

1. Place the wrapped hedgehog inside a Priority Shipping box.
2. Add packing material, such as crumpled newspaper, to prevent the contents from shifting during transit.

Step 4: Complete Necessary Forms

1. Visit either Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
2. Print and fill out the three required forms.
3. Seal the completed forms in a Ziploc bag to protect them from moisture.
4. Place the Ziploc bag inside the shipping box.

Step 5: Ship the Package

1. Seal the shipping box securely.
2. Mail it to the address at the top of the necropsy submission form using overnight delivery.
3. In approximately one week, OSU will email you the necropsy findings. Forward the PDF document to us for warranty processing.

Note: Necropsy reports will be shared with collaborating breeders to improve the health and genetics of hedgehogs as a species.