

## Dog, Cat, and Small Companion Animal Autopsy Form

Accession #

**Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory**  
 PA Department of Agriculture  
 2305 North Cameron Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17110  
 Tel: (717) 787-8808 / Fax (717) 772-3895  
 Business Hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm M-F

**Animal Diagnostic Laboratory**  
 The Pennsylvania State University  
 131 Pastureview Road  
 University Park, PA 16802  
 Tel: (814) 863-0837 / Fax: (814) 865-3907  
 Business Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm M-F

**New Bolton Center**  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 382 West Street Road  
 Kennett Square, PA 19348  
 Tel: (610) 925-6232 / Fax: (610) 925-6810  
 Business Hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm, M-F

Website: <http://padls.agriculture.pa.gov>

\*\* All submissions require pre-approval. Please call the laboratory during business hours. Submissions arriving without notice may be refused. \*\*

### **Veterinarian or Law Enforcement Officer (required)**

Veterinarian:

Clinic:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

### **Owner**

Name:

Address:

Address 2:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

### **Billing**

Owner – payment required at drop-off  
 Veterinarian  
 Law Enforcement/Non-profit organization  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **Reporting** (results emailed unless otherwise noted)

Veterinarian/Law-enforcement/Non-profit org.  
 Owner  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **Animal Information**

Name/ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Case/Reference #: \_\_\_\_\_

Species:  Dog  Cat  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Intact male  Intact female  Neutered male  Spayed female  Unknown

Age: \_\_\_\_\_  Day  Wk  Mo  Yr

Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  Died  Euthanized; method \_\_\_\_\_

Has the animal bitten anyone in the 10 days prior to its death?  Yes  No  Unknown

### **Disposition of remains (check one)**

Laboratory Disposal – no ashes returned  
 Private Cremation (list company): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (must have Case Coordinator approval)

- Due to biocontainment concerns **no bodily remains are returned to owners**. The client may request release of remains to a pet crematory. Cremation must be arranged and paid by the client. Animals for which arrangements have not been made by the client within 5 business days of submission may be disposed of or a body storage fee of \$20/day or \$100/week may be assessed.
- No cosmetic autopsies will be performed.

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### Medical History

Please summarize the clinical signs, timeline of illness, treatments, results of diagnostic tests and differential diagnoses related to death. Is there a risk of zoonotic disease? Are there other animals in the household? Are other animals sick or have died? Please briefly include prior diseases, surgeries, and vaccination status.

What is the major question(s) you want answered by this autopsy?

- Work on agricultural species has priority, and each PADLS laboratory reserved the right to provide autopsy services for dogs, cat, and small companion animals only when resources allow.
- Dogs, cats, and small companion animals are received for autopsy only through a referring veterinarian. Non-profit organizations (law-enforcement agencies, humane societies, rescuers and rehabilitators with legal non-profit status) are strongly encouraged to supply a veterinarian's name for case records.
- Before the animal is accepted and the autopsy is performed, the veterinarian or law enforcement officer must supply a complete history. An incomplete history or submission form may cause delays in processing and/or impact results.
- All correspondence will be conducted only through the referring veterinarian or law enforcement officer.
- In cases of advanced autolysis, an autopsy may not be performed.
- **Fees:** \$425 for in-state cases, \$850 for out-of-state cases - includes gross and histological examination. Examination of the spinal cord and other ancillary tests will incur additional fees. Bodies >100 pounds may incur an additional \$25 disposal fee surcharge. Field autopsy: the basic fee for microscopic examination of tissues is \$143 for in-state cases and \$286 for out-of-state cases. A minimum pathologist fee of \$200/hour will be assessed in legal cases for case preparation, depositions, court appearances and other legal requirements.
- All fees will be the responsibility of the owner, veterinarian, or non-profit organization as agreed to by all parties and as indicated on the submission form. The autopsy fee must be paid in advance except for organizations with a PADLS billing account.
- Please contact the laboratory regarding fees for submissions from non-profit organizations.
- The pathologist remains the coordinator in charge of the case. Selection of ancillary tests is in consultation with the referring veterinarian, but the pathologist has the authority to select and limit ancillary diagnostic testing.

**By signing below, the owner and referring veterinarian agree to the conditions as described above and have spoken with a pathologist prior to submission.** Verbal authorization is not accepted; both signatures are required for all owner-animal submissions except from law-enforcement or humane organizations.

Signature of Owner:

Signature of Referring Veterinarian/Law Enforcement Officer: