



HOW TO



# Packaging bodies for post-mortem examination

The law requires the shipper (you) to be responsible for the safety of specimens sent via courier ([Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005](#) and [IATA Packing Instruction 650](#)). Packages must have three layers of containment and be prepared in such a way that they arrive in good condition and present no hazard to anyone during shipment. Diagnostic samples are considered a Category B infectious substance and are assigned to UN 3373.

## Materials required:

Sturdy plastic bags / absorbent material / hard plastic chilly bin / lidded container / ice packs / tape

## How to:

1. Call 0800 GRIBBLES to discuss post-mortem requirements with our pathologists.
2. Place the chilled cadaver into a sturdy plastic bag and tape the bag closed ensuring it is as leak proof as possible. Label the bag with the animal/owner name and date of death.
3. Place absorbent material into another sturdy plastic bag followed by the bagged body from step 1. Tape the second bag closed, ensuring it is as leak proof as possible.
4. Complete a submission form and include clinic and vet details, owner and animal name, species, breed, sex and age of animal, date of collection, testing required and relevant clinical history and place into a plastic bag.
5. Place the double bagged body and bagged submission form into a hard plastic chilly bin or other sturdy container with a lid\*, along with ice packs and further absorbent material so the body is cushioned, cool, and any potential leakage from the bags will be soaked up.
6. Securely tape around the junction where the lid meets the body of the chilly bin / container to ensure it is as leak proof as possible.
7. Ensure the package is clearly labelled as "UN 3373 BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B" on the outside (you can use the label on the reverse side of this flyer), and clearly addressed to your nearest Gribbles Veterinary laboratory that performs post mortems.
8. Send via same-day or overnight courier to the laboratory.

## Notes:

- The gross weight of the completed package must not exceed 30kg.
- Cardboard boxes and polystyrene chilly bins are unsuitable for submitting cadavers as they will not pass the requisite 1.2m drop test or the 24-hour stack test.\*
- Chilly bins / containers will be returned to you (courier costs will be incurred).
- Post mortems are NOT performed in our Hamilton or Christchurch laboratories. Please contact us so we can advise the best laboratory for them to be sent to.
- Bodies that have undergone post mortem examination can only be returned to clinics after cremation.
- If the submission of a body for post-mortem is logistically difficult, our pathologists are more than happy to talk you through the process, enabling you to perform the PM in your clinic. You can also refer to the necropsy section of our online [Vet Handbook](#).
- Post mortem services are not available on Saturdays.

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*Please refer to our current price book for sample types, test turn-around times and pricing. If you have any questions or would like any further information, please contact your local Gribbles Veterinary laboratory or Territory Manager.*



The label below can be printed out, completed and attached to the chilly bin / container for shipping:

<b>TO: GRIBBLES VETERINARY</b>	
<b>FROM:</b>	
<b>Telephone:</b>	

References:

[Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005](#)

[Ministry of Transport - Transporting Dangerous Goods safely](#)

[IATA Packing Instruction 650](#)

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