

## University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: Specimen Submission Directions

### **What:**

We accept animal samples (milk, eggs, environmental samples, culture swabs, etc.) for diagnostic testing, and deceased animals for necropsy. **Please be sure to call us first (581 2775/2789) before sending or bringing animals for necropsy.**

### **When:**

Any samples must arrive here **before noon** to be necropsied the same day. We operate the lab Monday to Friday, but cannot receive shipments on the weekends. It's best to bring samples early in the week. Routine salmonella samples are started on Tuesdays.

### **How:**

All animals or samples should be immediately chilled following death. **All samples must be well-contained** (doubly sealed in zip-lock bags if possible). If deceased animals must be held for longer than 24-36 hours, please freeze them. Freezing decreases the accuracy of many tests, but is preferable to natural decomposition. All samples must be transported with ice packs in the transport container; ice packs should be sealed in separate zip-lock bags. Finally, the box should contain absorbent padding around the samples. **SAMPLES MUST NOT LEAK.**

**Mailing:** For mailed or Fed-Ex samples, you should package the sample or animal by sealing in a large ziploc bag. Then, seal that inside another ziploc bag. Add to the box frozen re-useable ice block(s) in another ziploc bag. Be sure use enough ice to keep the sample chilled during the entire time of shipping. Pad the box well with absorbent stuffing (paper towels and newspaper) and, if you can, use a Styrofoam box. Label as follows for shipping:

### **US Mail/Fed Ex/UPS:**

**University of Maine Veterinary Diagnostic Lab  
17 Godfrey Drive  
Orono, ME 04473-3692  
(207) 581-2775 or 2789  
DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLES**

**Driving to 17 Godfrey Drive, Orono:**

Directions from I95: take the 2<sup>nd</sup> Orono Exit (Stillwater Ave), go R onto Stillwater, then R onto Godfrey Drive (1st light; if you cross the river you have gone too far). You will see a sign for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Diagnostic and Research Lab at the turn onto Godfrey Drive. Go about 1/2 mile, passing the Black Bear Inn on your right. When you see a sign for the Extension Diagnostic and Research lab on your left, pull in to the parking lot and enter the glass doors at the front of the building to meet with an administrative specialist. If you don't see someone at the front desk, please call 581 2775 for assistance.