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Preparation for a Necropsy

If your organization needs assistance with the costs, please consider contacting the [Association of Prosecuting Attorneys](#), the [Animal Legal Defense Fund](#) or the [ASPCA](#). They may be able to provide grants.

If WVFC is coming into your facility to do a necropsy, please prepare with the following:

- Radiographic images of the entire body, nose to tail, all four legs. There should be two orthogonal views for the entire body including soft tissues. Among other things, this allows for visualization of any projectiles or other metal objects within the body, new or old, as well as any fractures whether recent, healing, or healed. These will need to be available at the time of necropsy. Digital images are preferred over film, and digital images should be in jpeg +/- DICOM formatting.
- Records, reports, and photos: If there are any medical records, police reports, scene photos, etc., please have those available prior to the necropsy. At minimum, they must be made available in order to write the necropsy report.
- Supplies
 - SLR digital camera with new or reformatted memory card, 4 GB min.
 - ABFO #2 scale (preferred) or a ruler
 - Microchip scanner, fully charged or with fresh batteries
 - Vick's or generic brand Vaporub ointment
 - Yard sticks, 2
 - Stryker (oscillating) saw or handsaw with extra blades
 - Large-dog nail clippers and garden loppers
 - Exam gloves, powder-free, med., 1 box
 - Sterile surgery gloves, size 6 ½ , minimum of 2 pairs
 - Surgical cap and mask
 - Non-sterile gown or apron

- o Goggles, safety glasses, or face shield
 - o Plastic cutting board of a neutral color
 - o Necropsy (filet) knife and honing (sharpening) steel
 - o Surgical blade handle and #10 blades, several
 - o Mayo scissors, blunt-ended
 - o Forceps, rat-toothed
 - o Clippers and blade (like one would use to shave for surgery)
 - o Accelerated hydrogen peroxide or other cleaning solution
 - o Paper towels
 - o Packing tape, clear
 - o Neutral Buffered Formalin in jars, in a variety of sizes, minimum of 10 of the 120mls jars, at least one jar will need to be large enough for the entire brain at a 10:1 formalin:tissue ratio
 - o Tissue cassette cases for formalin jars
 - o Syringes, variety of sizes, with and without needles (16g - 22g)
 - o Blood tubes:
 - Plain Red-top tubes, minimum of 5
 - White-top tubes (no additives), minimum of 5
 - o Tongue depressors
 - o Plastic sterile jars, minimum of 5, various sizes
 - o Whirl-pak® bags, minimum of 20, variety of sizes, mostly smaller (<https://www.enasco.com/whirlpak/>)
 - o Evidence tape
 - o Evidence bags: plastic and paper, variety of sizes
 - o Evidence cardboard boxes, small
 - o Evidence envelopes, all sizes including glassine or similar for trace evidence
 - o DNA swabs (can be obtained from [UC Davis' Veterinary Genetics Laboratory](#))
 - o Plastic tweezers
 - o Sterile water or sterile saline
 - o Arson collection cans (uncoated paint cans), various sizes, if burn victim
 - o Bacterial culture swabs (for aerobic and anaerobic bacteria)
 - o Sterile cotton swab applicators, preferably on plastic sticks, 1-2 per package, several packages
 - o Source of very hot water and cup/mug
 - o 70-80% ethyl alcohol (aka ethanol) and glass jars, if any maggots present
- Forms for chain of custody and evidence collection
 - Recommend one assistant (at minimum, will need a staff member to be available every 15-20 minutes for safety reasons).