WHAT DO I DO WITH A BIOPSY THAT DOESN’T FIT INTO THE STANDARD 90ML CONTAINER?

When dealing with a specimen that is too large to fit in a 90ml container there are a number of relatively simple solutions. General Animal Reference Pathology specimen submittal guidelines still apply in most instances. Cross reference the How to Submit a Biopsy to Animal Reference Pathology document as well as this document for helpful information about how to ship specimens to Animal Reference Pathology. Both documents can be found on our webpage: www.animalreferencepathology.com under the client resource center tab and how to submit specimens option.

The first question to consider is: Is surgical margin evaluation necessary?

If not, then take several smaller representative samples of the lesion that will fit into a 90ml specimen container. Indicate on the submission form that the sample is multiple pieces of the same lesion and not more than one lesion. Use separate specimen containers if you are sending samples of other masses in addition to multiple samples from a very large mass. Ship via normal Animal Reference Pathology shipping guidelines explained on the back of this document.

IF SURGICAL MARGIN EVALUATION IS MANDATORY THEN FOLLOW ONE OF THE THREE OPTIONS BELOW:

**OPTION 1**
Fix the specimen in 10% neutral buffered formalin at your clinic for 24-48 hours in a large container. Once the specimen is fixed, it can be shipped without formalin. Take the specimen out of the formalin, place it in a ziplock bag. Double bag it. Then triple bag it. Place several paper towels or other absorbent material into the outer most bag in case of leakage. Then place the triple bagged specimen in a small cardboard box (a rigid outermost container [such as a cardboard box] is required to meet US Department of Transportation shipping requirements). Place the cardboard box into the FedEx clinical pak, seal the FedEx clinical pak and attach the air bill (keep the top copy for your records and for tracking purposes). Call 1-800-GO-FEDEX for a pick up or drop off at a FedEx office or dropbox. General Animal Reference Pathology shipping guidelines are included on the back of this document.

**OPTION 2**
Triple bag the fresh unfixed specimen. Place several paper towels or other absorbent material into the outer most bag in case of leakage. Place triple bagged specimen into a small cardboard box (a rigid outermost container [such as a cardboard box] is required to meet US Department of Transportation shipping requirements). Place the cardboard box into the FedEx clinical pak, seal the clinical pak and attach the air bill (keep the top copy for your records and for tracking purposes). Call 1-800-GO-FEDEX for a pick up or drop off at a FedEx office or dropbox. When the fresh specimen arrives at our laboratory we will fix the specimen appropriately prior to processing. Since the inbound shipping speed is overnight in most cases, significant autolysis (decomposition) doesn’t occur (especially in the cool temperatures of winter) and the sample is usually of acceptable quality for interpretation of the disease process. This option should not be used for specimens that will be in transit over a weekend or during extremely hot temperatures of summer. Do not ship fresh specimens on a Friday. General Animal Reference Pathology shipping guidelines are included on the back of this document.

**OPTION 3**
Use a specimen container larger than 90mls. We provide 90ml (and smaller volume) specimen containers free of charge to our clients. Contact us about obtaining larger specimen containers for a small fee. Larger containers can then be used for specimens that do not fit in a 90ml specimen container.
HOW TO SUBMIT A BIOPSY SPECIMEN TO ANIMAL REFERENCE PATHOLOGY

1. **Fill out test request form as completely as possible.**

   Include ARP account number, clinic name, pathologist preference if desired, number of specimens submitted, site(s), duration and any other clinical history that may apply. Use appropriate species specific or organ specific test request forms if available. Test request forms can be obtained at www.animalreferencepathology.com or by calling 1-800-426-2099.

2. **Place tissue(s) in formalin filled specimen container, tighten lid securely and label container with animal name and clinic/hospital name.**

   Note: If the lid is not aligned properly, it will leak, even though it may feel tight. Label the specimen container with pertinent information such as: owner’s name, animal’s name, chart number or clinic/hospital name. For large specimens that do not fit into the standard 90ml specimen container refer to the “What do I do with a biopsy that doesn’t fit into the 90ml container?” guide which can be found at www.animalreferencepathology.com or by calling 1-800-426-2099. Do not use tape to wrap the specimen container, as this does not prevent leakage. Wrapping the lid with parafilm is marginally better but the container can still leak if improperly sealed. DO NOT USE THE WHITE MAILER CONTAINER AS A PRIMARY SPECIMEN CONTAINER.

3. **Place specimen container in small specimen ziplock bag containing absorbent and seal.**

   Do not put absorbent material inside formalin jar. Absorbent material should remain in the bag between the formalin jar and the bag to absorb any leakage that may occur in transit.

4. **Place the small specimen ziplock bag, with specimen container and the biopsy specimen, into the white mailer container and tighten lid securely.**

5. **Place white mailer container and completed test request form into a ziplock or Animal Reference Pathology specimen bag and seal.**

6. **Place completed specimen bags into a FedEx clinical Pak bag, and seal the FedEx clinical Pak.**

   *Note: If there are multiple cases on any given day, put them all into one FedEx Clinical Pak bag. Do not send more than one FedEx Clinical Pak bag per day. If submitting cytology and biopsy cases on same day, protect the cytology specimens from any formalin fumes that may occur during shipment. Double or triple bagging cyt specimens may provide that protection.*

7. **Complete the preprinted FedEx airbill. Peel off backing and affix the airbill onto the FedEx clinical Pak bag. Keep the top copy (sender’s copy) of the airbill for tracking purposes.**

8. **Call FedEx to schedule a courier pickup or schedule a pick up online at FedEx.com. FedEx number is 800-463-3339. Shipment will arrive at our facility within 24 hours of pick-up. Do not schedule a Saturday pickup.**

   Please remember that the shipper is responsible for any fines levied due to leakage/damage caused by improper packaging.