Preparing your sample:

What tissues should I trim off the globe?

Anything you don’t need us to comment on. You are welcome to use suture to denote points of interest. We do evaluate the optic nerve on all globes submitted, so please leave it attached.

How long do I need to let my specimen sit in a 10:1 volume formalin to tissue?

Let the sample fix at least overnight before moving it to a smaller amount of formalin for mailing.

Should I poke a hole in the globe or inject it to let the formalin in?

Nope! No need to inject any formalin. Globes should always be submitted intact if possible.

How should I send small samples, especially cornea?

Be aware that samples shrink in formalin, so when sending small samples it is best to place them in a mesh cassette, when available, so that we are sure to note all of the intended pieces. If available, go ahead and put the sample on a piece of cucumber! We have noticed it helps keep samples like cornea from curling and then we get better sections.

How should I note where my lesion of interest is?

The location of lesions (ulcers, masses, etc) should always be drawn on the submission form. Formalin can make it more difficult to see lesions that were easily recognized on a fresh specimen. In addition, you may use suture or another method of marking locations.

If I have a sample from an exotic animal, should I do anything differently?

You may use the same form. Our lab may sometimes offer discounted fees on exotic specimens to help us build our collection. E-mail or call us for more information.

Davidson’s solution is preferred over formalin for zoo specimens.

Shipping:

What should I send the sample in?

For most samples we prefer 10% neutral buffered formalin in a leak proof, wide mouth container, double bagged. If you are worried the container may leak, surround the seal with parafilm or white medical tape. Please see the Sample Admission Advice Tab under Submission Forms for more specific information.
How can I mail my sample in the winter to prevent freezing artifact?

If you are sending your sample in the winter, you may add a splash of rubbing alcohol (isopropyl alcohol) to the formalin to help prevent freezing. Use a 1:10 ratio of alcohol to formalin.

What shipping service can I use?

Whatever you would like! Be aware that the cheapest option may not reach us for a long time and so may not be appropriate for cases requiring a more prompt diagnosis. Fed ex and UPS provide tracking #. Certain USPS services also provide tracking #.

Can I send samples from another country? Do I need to take them out of formalin first?

It can vary by location. Feel free to send us an e-mail or call. If you do take your sample out of formalin for overseas shipping, fix it overnight first, then be sure to wrap it in formalin soaked gauze so it does not arrive dry.

Billing:

How can I pay?

Mail a check with your sample and submission form, or wait for a bill. You don’t need to set up an account before sending a submission. We accept the following major credit cards: AmEx, Visa and Mastercard.

How long until I get a report?

It will be a minimum of 3 business days from when we receive your submission before you get a report. It may take longer if we need to order special stains or it is a large sample.

What is the difference between vet school and med school processing?

The med school histo tech produces high quality slides that are excellent for photography. However, only globes can be processed at the med school.

*Med school processing is currently unavailable.*