Animal Tissue Shipping Instructions

The following technical note is offered to give guidance as to the preferred method for packaging and shipping tissues to preserve DNA quality when transporting.

Shipping Instructions for Frozen Tissue

Tissue must be collected fresh, and never thawed. If tissue was already frozen as a large portion, a 50-70 mg aliquot may be removed, but the entire sample must remain frozen during the process. If this process cannot be performed, send the large portion, and arrange for return the remaining sample if requested. Packaging materials must be leak-proof and meet the general requirements of the US Postal Service and other carriers, and customs authorities where applicable.

- For frozen mammalian tissue, aliquot in 50-70 mg amounts (avoid thawing).
  - Preferred tissues: spleen, liver, kidney, brain.
- Place 50-70 mg chunks of flash frozen tissue into individual microfuge tubes or cryovials (one chunk per tube). If fresh, aliquot into tube then flash freeze entire tube.
  - Freeze tissue before transferring them into pre-chilled tubes so that tissue doesn't stick to the sides of the tube and become difficult to remove.
- Place cryovials inside a 50 ml conical tube and label "Biohazard." Print a shipping form and fill it out with sample information. Place form in a sealed plastic bag and include in the shipment container.
- Ship the materials in a polystyrene box (with at least a 1” thick walls and minimal inside dimensions of 8” x 6” x 4”), which is filled at least halfway with dry ice.
- Apply Dry Ice labels on outside box (UN 1845).
- For US domestic shipments, send the package by next-day delivery service (FedEx Priority Overnight or UPS Next Day Air).
- If shipping internationally, ensure that samples are admissible and that proper declarations are made with customs authorities. Accommodate for customs inspection accordingly. We recommend World Courier or another courier that will replenish dry ice during transit and while waiting in customs. Email recipient with the tracking number and the shipment delivery date.

Shipments should only be delivered from Monday to Friday; avoid shipments arriving on Saturdays, Sundays, or national holidays.