

University of Melbourne Post-Mortem Procedure Information sheet.

In the unfortunate event of the death of a pet, the circumstance may mean a post-mortem is wanted to investigate for a cause of death or to understand the progression of a disease process. The Pathology Group at the University of Melbourne Veterinary School provides a full post-mortem service for all animal species to veterinary clinics throughout Victoria.

All deceased pets must be submitted for post-mortem by a veterinary clinic. We no longer accept pets directly from pet owners. Transportation of deceased pets to our facility, is the responsibility of the submitting vet or the pet owner. Directions to the campus are provided on the back of this sheet.

Our post-mortem service receives bodies from 9am to 3pm weekdays. Out of these times bodies are best stored refrigerated until they can be delivered. Ideally the body would be also cooled during transport (cold or ice packs). Pets must be transported in a body bag or an appropriately sized, thick plastic bag as there is often some discharge or fluid leakage after death. Bodies can be frozen if they cannot be delivered within 24-48 hours however this does create significant tissue artifact making assessment more difficult for the pathologist and will prolong the post-mortem interval as the body must be defrosted prior to the post-mortem which often takes 12-24 hours.

The post-mortem procedure includes a thorough evaluation of all body systems through gross dissection of all organs followed by histopathology (microscope evaluation of tissues). On rare occasions, some pets die without significant tissue changes and the cause of death is not determined. This can occur with some cases of anaesthetic death, metabolic diseases and some toxicities.

In most cases the final post-mortem report is completed in 3 weeks (15 working days). Some cases may be delayed for extra tissue processing or additional diagnostic testing. Accurate drug levels cannot be determined from tissues after death so drug overdose testing is not currently offered by our service.

Pets that have undergone a post-mortem procedure cannot be returned to the pet owner for home burial. If the owner requests individual cremation, the ashes can be returned to the owner. The owner or vet clinic can nominate the cremation service of their choice on the submission form. If this is not completed the body will be sent for group cremation with our provider.

We do submit samples from post-mortem cases for additional testing such as bacterial culture, snake bite testing or rat bait testing, where is it deemed relevant. These tests are not covered under the post-mortem fee and will incur an additional cost. The billing for these tests will be forwarded to the referring vet from the testing laboratory.

The submitting veterinarian will be responsible for providing us with a relevant clinical history and will help the client understand the results of the pathology report once it has been completed.


 Veterinary Anatomic Pathology
 The Melbourne Veterinary School
 Faculty of Sciences
 The University of Melbourne
 250 Princes Highway
 Werribee, 3030
 Victoria

Where's Veterinary Pathology Drop-off?

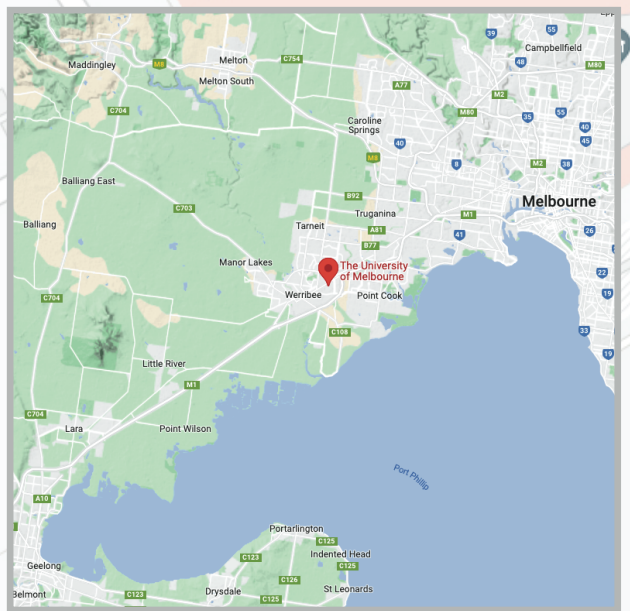



Gate 1
 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee
 GPS coordinates
 -37.887706, 144.694116



Veterinary Pathology Drop-off

Total distance: 400.25 m (1,313.17 ft)



If you require further information,
 please contact pathology team at
anat-vet@unimelb.edu.au

Werribee Mercy Hospital

Mother Baby Unit, Werribee Mercy Hospital

Wyndham