

<b>NECROPSY REQUIREMENTS</b>	An exhibitor should perform necropsies as part of providing adequate veterinary care. [3.110, Policy #21 and Policy #22]
<b>Criteria</b>	<p>A necropsy <b>must</b> be performed on all marine mammals. [3.110]</p> <p>It is strongly recommended but not required that a necropsy be performed on all elephants. [Policy #21]</p> <p>A necropsy should be performed: [Policy #22]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• at the discretion of the attending veterinarian</li><li>• when a high death loss is occurring</li><li>• when a significant number of unexplained deaths is occurring</li><li>• when a strong chance exists that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present (with or without potential zoonoses)</li><li>• when the circumstances around a death indicate that a violation of the AWA may have contributed to the death</li><li>• when warranted by circumstances</li></ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> If circumstances warrant, you (the inspector), in consultation with your SACS, may request an exhibitor to conduct necropsies on selected regulated animals. [Policy #22]</p> <p>The necropsy should be conducted within an appropriate interval after the animal's death.</p> <p>The animal's body should be kept at an appropriate refrigerated temperature to ensure meaningful necropsy results.</p> <p>The necropsy must be performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian experienced with the species being necropsied.</p> <p>The necropsy should include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an internal and external systemic gross pathology examination</li><li>• appropriate microbiological cultures of lesions</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• histopathology of lesions</li><li>• other indicated tests</li></ul> <p>All necropsy reports must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• signed and dated by the attending veterinarian, and</li><li>• maintained at the facility:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ for at least one year, or</li><li>➤ longer as required by APHIS</li></ul></li><li>• be available for review by APHIS personnel</li></ul>
<p><b>Species Specific</b></p>	<p><b>Marine Mammals [3.110]</b> A complete necropsy must: [3.110(f)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be performed on all marine mammals that die in captivity</li><li>• be conducted by or under the supervision of the attending veterinarian</li><li>• include, but not be limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ histopathology sample</li><li>➤ microbiological cultures</li><li>➤ other tests as appropriate</li></ul></li></ul> <p>The preliminary necropsy report must: [3.110(g)(1)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be prepared by the veterinarian conducting the necropsy</li><li>• list all pathological lesions observed</li></ul> <p>The final necropsy report must include: [3.110(g)(1)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• all gross findings</li><li>• all histopathology findings</li><li>• the results of all laboratory tests performed</li><li>• a pathological diagnosis</li></ul> <p>Necropsy reports must be: [3.110(g)(2)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maintained at the marine mammal's home facility</li><li>• maintained at the facility where the marine mammal died, if different than the home facility</li><li>• kept for 3 years</li><li>• available for APHIS inspection</li></ul>

**Other Animals - Elephants** [2.40(b)(2), Policy #21]

If a necropsy is performed, it should: [3.110(f)]

- be conducted by or under the supervision of a trained veterinary pathologist
- follow the procedure delineated in the “Elephant Necropsy Protocol - January 2003” (see pages 15.4.4-15.4.18) **AND** the “Elephant Research and Tissue Request Protocol - January 2003” (see pages 15.4.19-15.4.34)

A complete set of **all** tissues should be sent to:

- National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL)  
Mycobacteria & Brucella Section  
1800 Dayton Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010

The final report with histopathologic findings and any pertinent digital or color slides should be sent to:

- Dr. Richard Montali  
Department of Pathology  
Smithsonian National Zoo  
3001 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20008

**NOTE:** Prior to any planned euthanasia, the exhibitor should:

- perform trunk washes and other ancillary tests whether or not TB is suspected. (See “Tuberculosis Management” - Section 15.5)
- contact Dr. Richard Montali from the National Zoo at 202-673-4869 or [montalir@nzp.si.edu](mailto:montalir@nzp.si.edu) for assistance
- contact:
  - facility’s inspector, and/or
  - Elephant Field Specialist (Dr. Denise Sofranko at 703-812-6682), and/or
  - appropriate Regional Office