

## **Packaging and Shipping**

For the most current packaging and shipping information to meet DOT, USPS, and IATA requirements please go to:

<http://www.asm.org/images/pdf/Clinical/pack-ship-7-15-2011.pdf>

### **Packaging and Shipping of Specimens for Rabies Testing**

The guidelines below are for the shipping of average dog, cat, fox and skunk specimens. Because of the varying size of animals, specimens submitted for rabies testing may require the use of larger or different containers and bags. Please call the Virology/Serology Section at 505-383-9124 or 505-383-9125 for packaging and shipping guidance if the specimen is too large to submit using the format below.

The following materials will be needed to appropriately package the specimen:

- Ziploc or sturdy black plastic bags
- Adhesive tape or duct tape
- Animal identification information (if available)
- Leak-proof container, Styrofoam box, or other insulated container
- Absorbent packing material, such as newspaper
- Frozen gel packs or other appropriate refrigerants
- Packaging tape
- Cardboard box
- UN3373 label
- Completed SLD Veterinary/Rabies Submission Form
- Shipping documents appropriate for the carrier used to deliver the package to SLD

1. Each specimen submitted must be thoroughly bled, and double-bagged in Ziploc bags, sturdy black plastic bags, or a combination of the two (Fig.1-2). Separate bags should be used for each specimen. All bags must be securely sealed to prevent leakage: place the first bag inside the second bag, tie off the top, or twist the top, fold over and secure with duct tape or other heavy duty tape (Fig. 3).

Figure 1.



Figure 2.

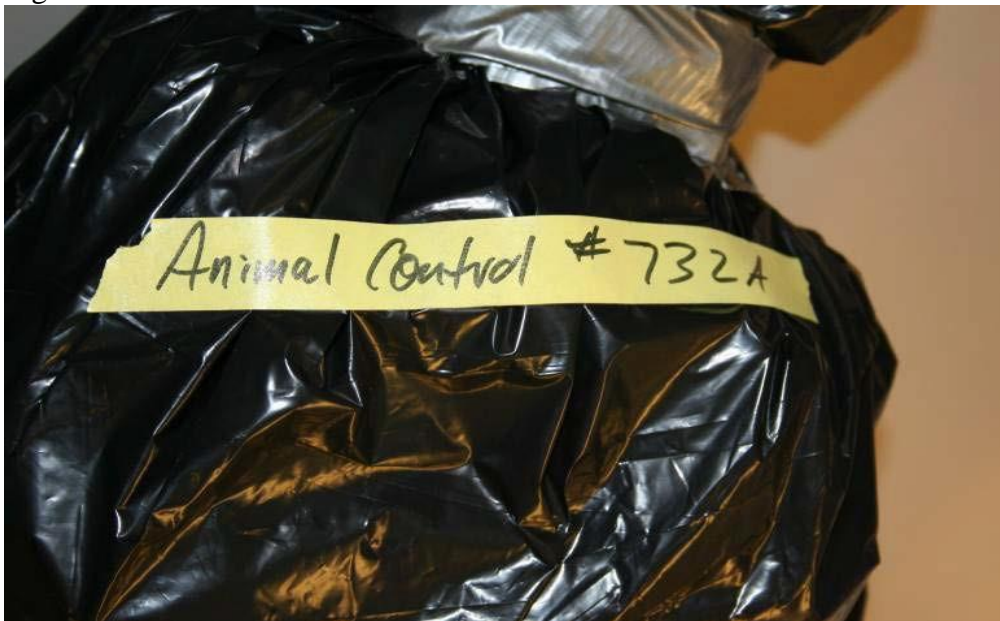


Figure 3.



2. If applicable, attach an identification number or name to the outside of each double-bagged specimen (Fig.4). The identification must match the information on the submission form. This is especially important if more than one specimen is sent in the same package.

Figure 4.



3. Place the double zip-lock bag(s) or plastic bag(s) containing the specimen(s) inside an inner container, such as a Styrofoam box or bucket (Fig.5).

Figure 5.



4. Use sufficient absorbent packing material, such as newspaper, to cushion the specimen(s) and to absorb any leaks.

5. Place enough frozen gel packs, or similar refrigerant, in the inner container to ensure specimens are completely covered and will remain cold for at least 72 hours (Fig. 6-7). **DO NOT USE DRY ICE!** Ice is not recommended (if ice must be used, double bag and seal it securely to prevent leakage).

Figure 6



Figure 7.



6. Seal the inner container with tape or ensure screw-on lid is secure (Fig. 8) and place it inside the rigid outer container (cardboard box) (Fig. 9).

Figure 8.



Figure 9.



7. Place the completed SLD Animal Test Request Form(s) (available at <http://nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/1501/>) in a plastic zip-lock bag (Fig. 10). Then place the plastic zip-lock bag on top of the closed inner container (Fig.11).

Figure 10.



Figure 11.



8. Close the outer container and secure with packaging tape (Fig.12).

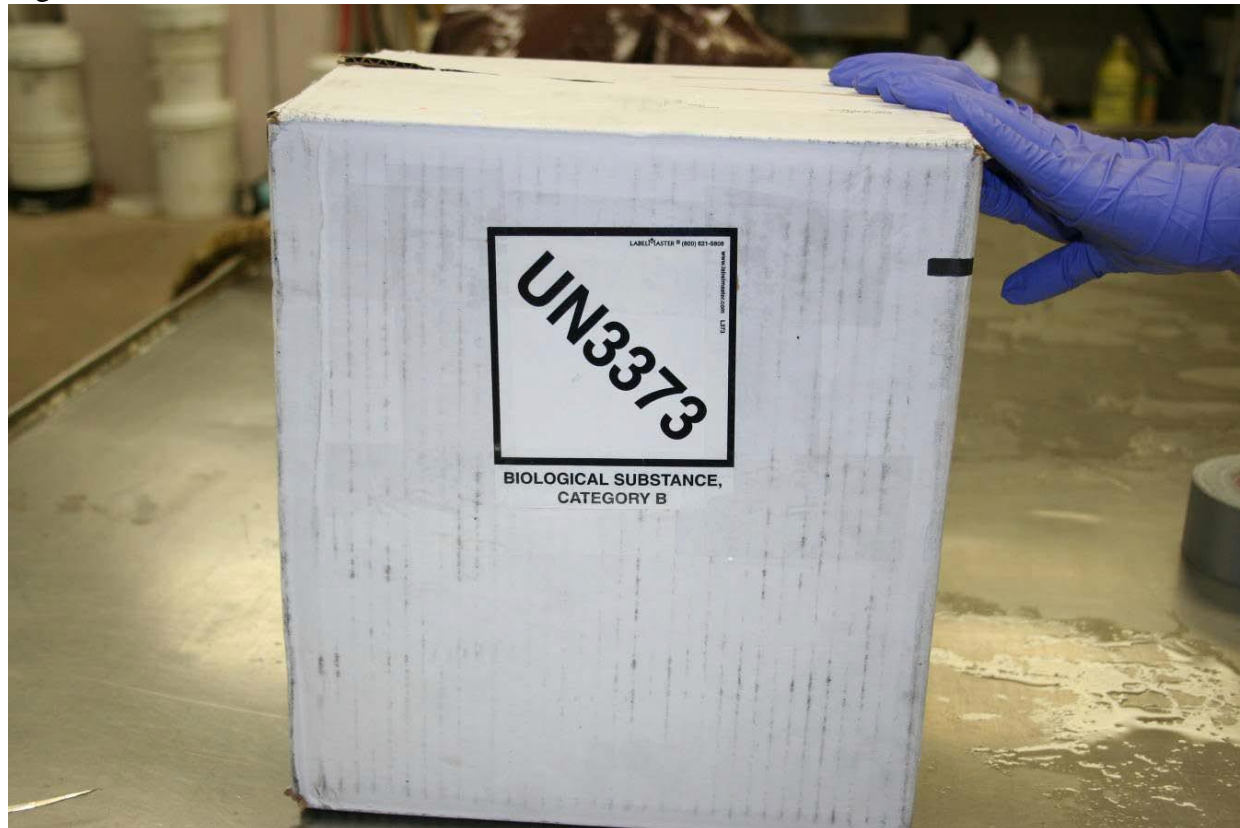
Figure 12.





9. Ensure that the diamond-shaped UN3373 label is on the exterior of the outer container (Fig. 13) near the proper shipping name of "Biological Substance, Category B". The UN3373 label must have a minimum dimension of 100 mm x 100 mm (3.9 inches). Packaging must meet DOT and/or IATA guidelines as appropriate for the mode of transportation. Shipments sent via DMC must meet both guidelines.

Figure 13.



10. Send specimen(s) to:

Scientific Laboratory Division  
ATTN: Virology/Serology  
1101 Camino de Salud NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

11. Call the Virology/Serology section at 505-383-9124 or 505-383-9125 with any questions.