

# Package samples for transport

The law requires the shipper (you) to be responsible for the safety of specimens sent via courier (Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005 and IATA Packing Instruction 650). Packages must have three layers of containment and be prepared in such a way that they arrive in good condition and present no hazard to anyone during shipment. Diagnostic samples are considered a Category B infectious substance and are assigned to UN 3373.

## Materials required:

Sample container\* / biohazard sample bags\* / absorbent material / bio-bottles (shippers)\* / courier bags\*

*\* Can be obtained from Awanui Veterinary using our online ordering*

## How to:

1. Place the sample collected into the appropriate sample container and close lid tightly.
2. Label the sample container with the animal and owner name, date of collection, and if necessary the sample type.
3. Complete a submission form and include clinic and vet details, owner and animal name, species, breed, sex and age of animal, date of collection, testing required and relevant clinical history.
4. Place the sample container into a biohazard sample bag (absorbent material e.g. tissue paper should also be included in case of leaks) and place the completed submission in the outside pocket of the bag.
5. Samples being collected by laboratory couriers do not require any further packaging.
6. If using a commercial courier to transport your sample to the laboratory, place the sample bag inside a bio-bottle (shipper) that contains some absorbent material (in case of spillage) and a small icepack. Ensure the ice-pack is not in direct contact with the samples (especially EDTA blood). Close the lid.
7. Place the bio-bottle into a Awanui Veterinary courier bag and seal.
8. If a Awanui Veterinary courier bag is not used, please ensure the package is clearly labelled as "UN 3373 BIOLOGICAL SUBSTANCE, CATEGORY B".
9. Send via courier to your local Awanui Veterinary laboratory.

## Notes:

- Cardboard boxes alone are unsuitable for submitting samples. They cannot withstand rough handling and are not leak proof.
- Bio-bottles can be labelled with your clinic name and will be returned to you routinely. It is advisable to have a least 6 containers in circulation so you have at least one available at the clinic at all times.
- Shippers (you) can be fined up to \$10,000 for breaches of these regulations.

## References:

[Land Transport Rule: Dangerous Goods 2005](#)

[Ministry of Transport - Transporting Dangerous Goods safely](#)

[IATA Packing Instruction 650](#)

