

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #636
STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF PRIMATE
TISSUES

PURPOSE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes the guidelines for the storage and transport of primate tissues.

This SOP applies to all primate tissues that have not undergone complete and final histological preparation, i.e., fixation, embedding, sectioning, staining, and mounting on slides, and that originate from:

- Primates under restrictive movement quarantine
- Primates imported under CFIA permits with specific requirements stating that imported animals, all subsequent progeny and any tissues, other than those in final histological preparations, must never be moved from the premises without written authorization of the CFIA.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

Veterinarian, Principal investigator (PI)

4. MATERIALS

- 4.1. Tissue storage container
- 4.2. Secondary transport container
- 4.3. CFIA transport permit (section 5.3 only)

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1. Tissue storage:
 - 5.1.1. All tissues, including animal products and by-products such as blood, feces, urine, swabs, etc. must be stored in sealed, leak-proof, shatter-proof containers.
 - 5.1.2. Disinfect the outside of the storage containers after introducing primate tissues.
 - 5.1.3. Containers must be labelled with the following information:
 - 5.1.3.1. Species
 - 5.1.3.2. Animal ID
 - 5.1.3.3. Type of tissue
 - 5.1.3.4. Fixative (if any)
 - 5.1.3.5. Date of collection
 - 5.1.3.6. For tissues in storage add:

WARNING: tissues must never be removed from McGill University premises. Movement requires CFIA permits. Contact the facility veterinarian

- 5.2.2. The veterinarian must be notified of all tissue movement. A tissue inventory will be maintained.
- 5.2.3. Tissues stored as described above should be placed in an opaque, covered secondary container for transport.
- 5.2.4. Tissues may be transported by foot or in a vehicle, using service elevators and corridors when available.
- 5.2.5. Minimize the transit time by travelling directly from the origin to the destination, without stops.
- 5.2.6. Once at the destination, tissues may be used or processed as needed. A disinfectant should be applied to all surfaces that come in contact with animal tissues.
- 5.2.7. Tissues are disposed of as hazardous waste, by incineration. When tissues are discarded, the veterinarian must be informed.
- 5.2.8. If tissues are to be moved to another location within the McGill University downtown campus or MNI, the veterinarian must be informed and the tissue inventory updated.
- 5.2.9. If tissues are to be moved to another location outside the McGill University downtown campus or MNI, the veterinarian must be informed prior to any transportation, see section 5.3.
- 5.3. Transport of tissues that leave McGill University, including downtown campus, Macdonald campus, Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI), Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC), and all McGill affiliated hospitals, e.g., samples sent to a diagnostic lab or other research institute, etc.:
 - 5.3.1. A CFIA transport permit is required for each movement; the permit must be available before transport.
 - 5.3.2. The facility veterinarian must be notified in advance so that a request for a permit can be submitted to CFIA and the tissue inventory updated.
 - 5.3.3. Transportation will be done in accordance with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations for Exempt Animal Specimens.
 - 5.3.4. A copy of the CFIA transport permit should be included with the transport documentation and provided to the transporter.

6. REFERENCES

- 6.1. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), [Requirements for Non-Human Primates Imported into Canada](#), 2009.
- 6.2. Government of Canada, [Transportation of dangerous goods regulations](#), 2020.