

## **Instructions - Collection of Heart Tissue for Deerhound Research**

With the dog in lateral recumbency incise approx. the 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space and examine the heart. Remove the entire heart and include a small portion of the great vessels.

Make a small incision in the right ventricle and a small incision in the left ventricle and carefully wash out any blood clots inside the heart using water. This will allow better contact between the formalin and the endocardium during the fixing process. Then place the organ in a large container filled with 10 % formalin. Leave the heart in the formalin for at least 2 days to fix.

After 2 days, drain the majority of the formalin out from the container and transfer into a smaller, sealable container with much less formalin before posting to the University of Liverpool pathology department. Label the pot containing the dog's heart with the date, the dog's first name and surname. Ensure that the container does not leak and package carefully. An extra layer of tape around the lid may help seal it. Download a histopathology lab form (to be sent with the packaged heart) using the following link:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/vetpathology/PMform.pdf>

Please include a note stating that this is "FAO: Dr Richard Blundell. Part of the Deerhound Study – to be charged to the Deerhound Research account". Failure to do so will mean that your vet practice will be charged for the post-mortem.

Send the heart and the completed histopathology lab form to Liverpool University Pathology Department:

Veterinary Pathology Diagnostic Services  
University of Liverpool  
Leahurst Campus  
Chester High Road  
Neston  
CH64 7TE

Please also email Emily Dutton ([emily@cheshirecardiology.com](mailto:emily@cheshirecardiology.com)) with the patient's first name and surname, patient date of birth, breed of the dog and owner's phone number so that a record can be made of the dog in question and so the results can be reported to yourself and the owners accordingly. If you have any questions regarding sample handling or postage, please telephone the pathology department at Liverpool University on 0151 795 6294. For any questions regarding the patients or the invoicing, please telephone veterinary cardiologist, Emily Dutton (07572 080086).

Thank you for helping with this study.