INFORMATION FOR THOSE CHOOSING AN AUTOPSY FOR THEIR PET

What is an autopsy?
It is the animal equivalent to a human autopsy to learn more about the animal’s disease and/or possibly the cause of death. Conducting an autopsy does not guarantee that we will find all the answers that you seek. Reports are issued using complex medical terminology.

Two types of autopsy:
Complete: Systematic search of the body, looking at all major organs, looking for lesions and obstructions and microscopically viewing tissue and organ samples. The owner is advised not to view the animal after this procedure is complete.

Cosmetic: Less invasive, limited to what can be visually observed, excludes evaluation of some organ systems. It gives very limited access to the central nervous system specifically. This procedure is only available for companion animals. Canines and felines will look very similar to what they looked like prior to the procedure.

When are autopsies performed?
Mondays through Saturday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. If an animal is dropped off before 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday it will usually undergo the autopsy procedure the same day.

When are autopsy results available?
Preliminary results are available about 48 hours after the procedure and emailed to your veterinarian. The final report is issued three to four weeks after the procedure and will be sent to the veterinarian that submitted the autopsy. Typically, the veterinarian will call you with the results. Sometimes, the veterinarian may ask that the owner call him/her in several weeks and request the results.

Suspicion of poisoning concerns
Testing for toxins or poisons is not standard with an autopsy, and if requested, will incur additional cost. Please request that we retain tissue samples if you wish to pursue toxicology testing.

Cremation/Disposal Options
We offer standard options for cremation, including a private (ashes returned) or communal (ashes not returned); as well as disposal for large animal patients.

Picking Pet up after autopsy (if one of our standard options is not picked)
- Owners ARE NOT called after the autopsy. Animals available for pick up at the end of the first business day, the day after the animal is dropped off. (Ex: An animal dropped off Saturday will not be available until Monday afternoon.)
- Animals ARE NOT held for additional testing.
- A complete autopsy is an invasive medical procedure and the animal will not be suitable for viewing.
- The owner is responsible for making arrangements for their pet to be picked up within 72 hours (3 business days) of the autopsy or death of the animal. If arrangements have not been made in that time frame, the animal will be communally cremated.

If you have questions or need to discuss pick-up arrangements, please call 614-247-4795 to speak to Jenny Bolon.