



CANADIAN  
**WILDLIFE HEALTH**  
COOPERATIVE

# SHIPPING & HANDLING Instructions

**CREATING A WORLD  
THAT IS SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE  
FOR WILDLIFE AND SOCIETY**



## General Requirements

Packages used for the shipping of samples must be of good quality, strong enough to withstand the shocks and loads normally encountered during transport. Packages must be constructed and closed so as to prevent any loss or leakage of contents that might be caused under normal conditions of transport, by vibration, or by changes in temperature, humidity or pressure.

## Supplies Required For Submission of a Specimen

1. CWHC Specimen Submission Form  
[http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report\\_submit.php](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/report_submit.php)
2. Zip-Loc or other clear plastic bags to enclose Incident Report Forms
3. Heavy-duty plastic bags big enough to enclose the bird or mammal, and strong enough to resist puncture by bills, beaks, and claws; secure ties for same.
4. Waterproof labels/tags, or small waterproof plastic bags (Zip-loc or Whirl-pac) in which to enclose labels/tags; waterproof marker.
5. Frozen cold packs (not ice).
6. Newspaper and a larger leak-proof plastic bag (such as a heavy garbage bag) in which to wrap bagged specimens.
7. Insulated shipping container: hard-sided plastic picnic cooler with return address clearly marked. Do not use Styrofoam, cardboard or other non-durable shipping containers.
8. Heavy packing/shipping/duct tape.

## Specimen Collection – Handling Instructions

Risks associated with the collection of specimens are low if reasonable sanitary precautions are taken. Persons collecting or handling animals or carcasses should avoid contact with blood or body fluids, and they are advised to avoid punctures or cuts from bills, claws, teeth or instruments during handling.

Carcasses should be handled using an implement such as a small shovel or large tongs, or by hand only if disposable (vinyl, PVC, latex [if not allergic], nitrile or rubber) gloves are worn. Alternatively, carcasses may be placed in a heavy-duty puncture resistant leak-proof plastic bag of appropriate size by inverting the bag over the gloved hand, then grasping the carcass through the bag, and wrapping the bag around the body without touching it. The bag should be thick enough to resist puncture by beaks, talons, claws, nails, etc., and of adequate size to fully contain the carcass, while permitting secure closure by knotted string, or by knotting the bag tightly on itself.

It should be wrapped in an absorbent material, such as newspaper, then placed inside a second leak-proof plastic bag, which is similarly sealed. Double-bagging prevents cross-contamination between carcasses and fluid leaks in shipping, and is required to conform to shipping regulations.



Carcasses should be chilled, but not frozen, unless it will be impossible to get them to the lab within 24-36 hours (distance, weekend intervening), in which case they should be frozen. Carcasses not submitted should be double-bagged and placed in garbage destined for a landfill, or buried several feet deep where they will not be disturbed.

Do not dispose of in a manner such that they could be handled again by someone. People handling carcasses should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water afterward.

### **Shipping instructions**

Please contact your CWHC region for instructions on how to ship your sample.

#### **CWHC British Columbia**

Phone: 604.556.3003

Fax: 604.556.3010

Email: [bc@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:bc@cwbc-rccsf.ca)

#### **CWHC Ontario/Nunavut**

Phone: 866.673.4781

Fax: 519.821.7520

Email: [on-nu@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:on-nu@cwbc-rccsf.ca)

#### **CWHC Alberta**

Phone: 403.210.6678

Fax: 403.210.8121

Email: [alberta@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:alberta@cwbc-rccsf.ca)

#### **CWHC Québec**

Phone: 450.773.8521 ext. 8346

Fax: 450.778.8116

Email: [quebec@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:quebec@cwbc-rccsf.ca)

#### **CWHC Western/Northern**

Phone: 306.966.5815

Fax: 306.966.7439

Email: [westernnorthern@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:westernnorthern@cwbc-rccsf.ca)

#### **CWHC Atlantic**

Phone: 902.628.4314

Fax: 902.566.0871

Email: [atlantic@cwbc-rccsf.ca](mailto:atlantic@cwbc-rccsf.ca)



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## CONTACT US

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