

Field Post-mortem Box

Large Animal – Pigs

Personal hygiene	Animal and sample identification
	
<p>Wear protective gloves. Wash hands before and after post-mortem. Disinfect equipment</p>	<p>Identification of animals and samples is a vital part of a successful post-mortem. A water proof camera is essential.</p>
Starting the post-mortem and gaining access to body cavities	
	
<p>To gain access to major body cavities. A sharp knife and knife sharpener is required. Note also protective gloves – chain mail or kevlar for the none knife hand</p>	<p>To gain access to the chest, head and pelvis a saw and bone cutting tools may be necessary</p>
Sample collection and retrieval	
	
<p>Range of scissors, scalpel and forceps. A small tray to hold samples prior to processing can be extremely useful</p>	<p>Samples collection capabilities should include blood tubes – clotted and unclotted blood, microscope slides for blood smear etc. Litmus paper for pH exam. Syringe and needle for aspiration. Swab and liquid collection vessel. Swabs: aerobic, anaerobic and viral collection. Plastic bag for whole organ collection. Note ruler scale. Wear ear protection when collecting samples from live pigs</p>

Post-mortem box

The box needs to be easily cleaned and disinfected. All items should be placed in plastic bags to help keep them clean in the field. The photographs illustrate one such example.



Biosecurity

Biosecurity is the most important aspect of carrying out a field post-mortem. It is vital that pathogens are not transferred between farms by yourself, the post-mortem box or equipment

Additional equipment

Not shown are euthanasia equipment where required.

Samples need to be stored and transferred to the laboratory for further examination. Additional equipment may be necessary to ensure this transfer occurs while maintaining tissues and biosecurity. Comply with all local postal regulation when transferring samples to a laboratory.