



Instructions for Shipping Legally Deceased Pet Bodies

Important disclaimer: These instructions are provided as general guidelines only. The shipper assumes full responsibility for complying with all applicable laws, regulations, and safety procedures in their jurisdiction and those of the shipping company. We cannot guarantee the completeness or accuracy of these instructions for every situation. Proceed at your own risk and consult with local experts and health professionals if you are unsure about any aspect of this process.

Preparation:

- During preparation for shipping, keep the body and especially the head at refrigeration temperature if possible.
- Wrap the pet's head in at least one thick, dry towel or multiple thin, dry towels. Secure tightly with packing tape, rubber bands, or something else. This insulation is designed to protect the brain tissue from direct contact with dry ice during shipping.
- Place your pet's body in a waterproof plastic bag. Large contractor bags secured with packing tape are recommended for medium to large pets, while a sizable Ziploc bag is recommended for smaller pets such as a cat. Ensure the bag is completely sealed to prevent any leakage of body fluids.
- Surround the sealed bag with a large amount of crumpled paper towels as absorbent material to soak up any potential leaks and provide a layer of additional insulation.

Packing with Dry Ice:

- Place the bag containing your pet's body inside in a cardboard insulated or Styrofoam container.
- Add a block or two of dry ice around the bag, which can usually be bought from a local store. Purchase dry ice as close to shipping time for maximum effectiveness.
- Recommended dry ice amounts (adjust based on shipping duration, container size, and pet size):
 - General guideline: 5 pounds (2.25 kg) of dry ice
 - For pets under 25 pounds: 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg) of dry ice
- Safety precautions when handling dry ice:
 - Wear insulated gloves to prevent frostbite
 - **Never handle dry ice in an enclosed space without ventilation – that is, in an area that does not get fresh air. In this case, dry ice can cause CO₂ to build up in the atmosphere. This can cause suffocation and death. Dry ice is dangerous and should only be used by people who know what they are doing.**
- Seal the insulated container with a small amount of packing tape to secure its contents. Do not seal the insulated container airtight. Allow for gas escape to prevent pressure build-up.

Final Packaging:

- Place the sealed insulated container inside a cardboard shipping box.
- Fill any empty spaces with packing materials to prevent movement during transit.
- Securely tape the shipping box shut.

Shipping, Labeling, and Documentation:

- Use an express delivery service that supports overnight shipping. FedEx or UPS are recommended if possible.
- Our delivery address: 3265 Marietta St SE, Salem, OR 97317
- Clearly label the package as required by the rules of your shipping company. For example, for UPS, you may need to write “Dry Ice” on the shipping box.
<https://www.ups.com/us/en/support/shipping-support/shipping-special-care-regulated-items/hazardous-materials-guide/shippers-responsibilities/coolants-and-refrigerants.page>
- If required by your shipping company, include any required documentation for biological specimens. If there is minimal likelihood that pathogens are present in the specimen, then for UPS, you may need to write “Exempt animal specimen” on the shipping box.
<https://www.ups.com/us/en/support/shipping-support/shipping-special-care-regulated-items/hazardous-materials-guide/biological-substances.page>
- Notify our facility of shipment details, including the tracking number and expected arrival time.

Additional Notes:

- Time is critical. Begin the shipping process as soon as possible after the pet’s legal death.
- If shipping will be delayed, consider storing the body in a refrigerator (not freezer) until shipping is possible.
- Be prepared to provide the pet’s medical history if requested by our facility.

For any questions or further assistance, please contact us.