



ROUS Foundation for Capybara Veterinary Medicine
in conjunction with
Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine

Capybara Necropsy Instructions

Introduction:

The ROUS Foundation provides funds for certain veterinary expenses associated with the care of captive capybaras through services provided by Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine.

The goal of the ROUS Foundation is to improve the quality and duration of life of captive capybaras including those kept as pets, in small zoos or in major zoological parks. A first objective of the Foundation is to learn the life expectancy of captive capybaras, why they die and what condition they are in at death in addition to the proximal cause of death. To this end, the Foundation supplies funds to cover the costs of capybara necropsies done at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU), including the cost of shipping the deceased animal from within the United States and Canada.

Donations:

Tax deductible donations can be made directly to TAMU at <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/giving/opportunities/rous>.

Donations can also be made at www.CaplinRous.com. Donations to this site are not tax-deductible and are used to create capybara related merchandise to sell to raise more money for the ROUS Foundation.

Shipping:

We appreciate what a difficult time the loss of a pet or favorite zoo animal can be, yet it is important to act immediately if information is to be learned from the animal's death. It is imperative that the deceased animal:

- be shipped **as quickly as possible**, preferably the same day, using overnight shipping, but NOT USPS.
- be kept refrigerated or on ice (not dry ice) but **not frozen**, even during shipping
- TAMU be contacted **before the animal is shipped** to ensure they are aware of it and that someone will be available to do the necropsy as soon as the animal arrives
 - Contact one of the following (please attempt contact in the order shown):
 - Dr. Sharman Hoppes: 979-845-2351 (ask for Dr. Hoppes)
 - Dr. Mark Stickney: 979-845-2351 (ask for Dr. Stickney)
 - Melanie Typaldos: 512-751-6667
 - Email to
RousFoundation@gmail.com AND
shoppes@cvm.tamu.edu AND
mstickney@cvm.tamu.edu
- Address the package as follows:

Attn: Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital
 College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
 Building 508
 Texas A&M University
 4457 TAMU
 College Station, TX 77843-4457

Label it:
 Necropsy and Refrigerated
 ROUS Foundation

Expenses:

The cost of the gross necropsy and histopathology is completely covered by the ROUS Foundation.

The cost of shipping from within the US and Canada is covered by the ROUS Foundation either by sending the body COD or through a reimbursement.

Protocol for capybara necropsies and liver profiles is also covered.

Things to be aware of:

The quality and nature of information obtained from the necropsy is dependent on the state of the deceased animal when the necropsy is performed. A frozen or decayed animal reduces the ability of the pathologists to determine cause of death, to study tissues and potentially to do blood tests. Nevertheless, these animals may still provide useful information. However if the condition of the animal is too deteriorated, the pathologist may decline to perform a necropsy.

Veterinary History:

Please complete the attached veterinary history form regarding this animal. This information provides valuable insight into the cause and course of disease and what environmental factors may have contributed to the death. This should be done within a few days of shipping.

This information can be reprinted from <http://gianthamster.com/rousfoundation/>