

SMP Forensic Necropsy Rubric (cycle 2026)

Language from ABVP Handbook 2025

Forensic necropsy	Perform at least one (1) forensic necropsy (can be wet lab) with appropriate documentation and record keeping. Field experience is ideal but it is recognized that the opportunity to participate in a forensic	Population case log: Cruelty case section In addition to the log Include a copy of your actual medical record for one (1) forensic necropsy with any identifying
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	necropsy may not occur; therefore simulation or wet lab is an acceptable substitute.	information removed. This report should include all gross and laboratory findings, assessment, communication and follow up (if applicable).
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Forensic Necropsy Rubric:

Minimum of Pass in all preliminary review categories and 14/20 points to pass

Preliminary review	PASS		FAIL
Forensic necropsy is appropriately logged in Population Case Log.	Log details the nature of the case or wetlab and pertinent facts that indicate the participant performed a forensic necropsy		Forensic necropsy is not logged on the population case log
Legibility (if hand-written)	Medical record is legible		Medical record is not legible
Points Evaluation*	4 points	2 points	0 points
Medical record of necropsy includes: • Date necropsy performed • Whether necropsy was performed in practice or by participation at wet lab • Any relevant case history • Animal signalment and description • Gross findings (normal and abnormal findings for each body system)	Medical record mentions all listed items	Medical record includes approximately half of items or is unclear on whether all elements were performed	Medical record does not include most items or does not represent a SMP specialist level necropsy
Medical record includes applicable: • Documentation of evidence collection (e.g.	Medical record represents items or clearly and reasonably	Medical record includes approximately half of items or	Medical record does not include most items or does not represent a SMP specialist level necropsy

photographs if taken, tissue samples) • Laboratory testing, results, and interpretation • Diagnostic imaging, results, and interpretation	accounts for why they were not performed	is unclear on whether all elements were performed	
Medical record includes assessment and plan (e.g. next steps for communication, reporting, follow up) • Differential diagnoses based on findings • Whether or not findings are consistent with non-accidental injury or neglect • Communication of results • Follow-up (if applicable)	Medical record represents appropriate assessment and plan based on necropsy	Medical record mentions items but they are unclear or incomplete	Assessment and plan elements are missing
Medical record • uses appropriate terms and professional language • is presented in a manner that would stand up in a court proceeding (or a review by a veterinary medical board)	Medical record uses appropriate medical language and formatting	Medical record is lacking in medical language and presentation.	Medical record does not represent an appropriate level of professional language and formatting
Case confidentiality is maintained • Identifying information (e.g. animal's name, shelter's name, officer's names, addresses) is removed or redacted from the medical record and any other submitted documentation	All identifying information about the case is removed or redacted	N/A	Any identifying information is still present in the record/ documentation

*Applicants are encouraged to review the IVFSA Standards for Veterinary Forensic Necropsy prior to completing this activity. ABVP acknowledges that applicants are (likely) not veterinary pathologists, but the forensic necropsy report should be aligned with and reflect core principles of IVFSA standards.

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