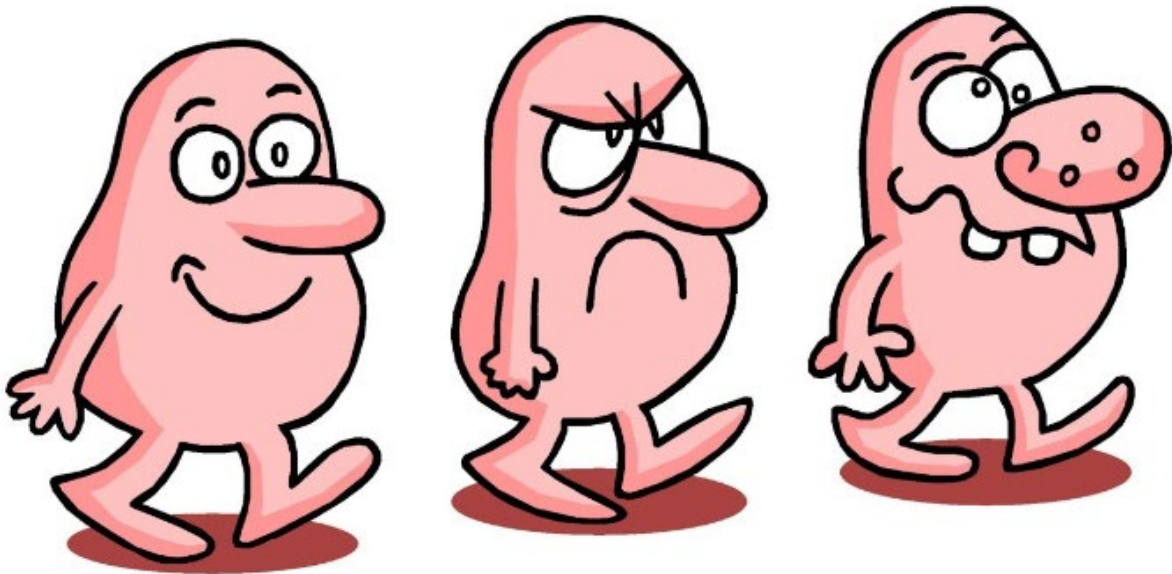


THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY



When shipping a package to one of the MDA Animal Health Laboratories, it's imperative that our clients take steps to properly package samples to ensure they arrive safely and that all testing can be conducted accordingly.

Here are examples of good, bad, and ugly methods of packaging samples:



The Good

All packages should include 3 layers:

1. **Primary:** Sample in a bag
2. **Secondary:** Styrofoam shell
3. **Tertiary:** Cardboard box

Paperwork should be placed in a separate Ziploc bag and absorbent material should be used to add cushion and to absorb any excess liquids. Ice packs should be used to keep samples cold and should not directly touch samples.

The Bad

Example: A single tube was shipped to the lab in a box without absorbent material or any bags.

Here's how it should've been shipped:

- Tube should have been placed in a bag to prevent leakage
- Smaller box to reduce wasted space
- More cushioning and absorbent material
- Paperwork bagged separate from sample





The Ugly

Example: Multiple blood tubes were placed in 1 box and were broken in transit to the lab.

Here's how it should've been shipped:

- Tubes should have been placed in a bag to prevent leakage
- Cushioning and absorbent material added to box
- Paperwork included in box and bagged separate from samples

It is **critical** samples are packaged to prevent leakage. Couriers will hold packages that leak during transit and may charge fines. In extreme cases with blood leaks, hazmat teams will seize and dispose of packages.

Examples of improper shipping:



Example: Samples were shipped in only a Styrofoam shell.

Here's how it should've been shipped:

- Styrofoam shell placed in a cardboard box

This double layer of protection ensures samples and paperwork withstand the journey to our lab. A perfectly collected sample can arrive at the lab untestable if broken or damaged in transit.

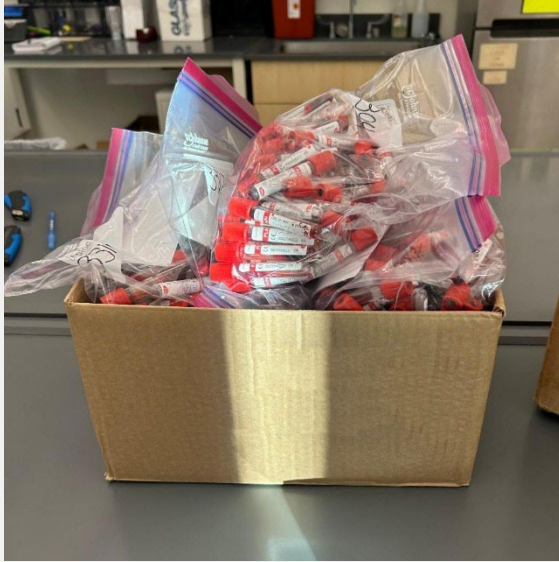


Example: Unidentifiable writing on tube and the tube was not properly cleaned.

Here's how it should've been shipped:

- Outside of tube clear of blood and feces
- Clear writing used to list identification information

Samples that arrive in this condition cause a delay in testing as our staff will have to contact the client to clarify information.



Example: A bulk accession is shipped in multiple bags with no cushioning or absorbent material.

Here's how it should've been shipped:

- Tubes placed in tube holders in numerical order
- Cushioning and absorbent material included in box

The Animal Health team would like to thank you for your compliance and for choosing MDA to be your veterinary diagnostic laboratory!