

Important Information for Sending Samples to the Ape Heart Project

- Please contact us via email at heartproject@twycrosszoo.org prior to sending any samples
- Useful samples include:
 - **Formalin-fixed whole heart**
Section and fix as per the sampling protocol (found on our [website](#)). Drain formalin off after full tissue fixation. Wrap in saline-soaked gauze swabs or similar to prevent desiccation, then double bag and place inside a sealed plastic container (large enough that the heart is not squashed). Store and send at room temperature.
 - **Serum (0.5–2ml)**
Archived samples accepted. Store frozen until shipment is possible. Send chilled with an ice pack/cooler.
 - **Small section ($\leq 1 \times 1 \times 1 \text{cm}$) of apical myocardium or other tissue**
Section as per the sampling protocol. Submerge in 70–99% non-methylated ethanol. Store frozen until shipment is possible. Send chilled with an ice pack/cooler.
 - **EDTA blood (0.5–5ml)**
Store frozen until shipment is possible. Send chilled with an ice pack/cooler.

Formalin-fixed
whole heart

AND
(where possible)

Serum
(0.5–2ml)

AND *
(where possible)

Small section
($\leq 1 \times 1 \times 1 \text{cm}$) of
apical myocardium
in ethanol (70–99%,
non-methylated)

OR

EDTA blood
(0.5–5ml)

* If sending via the EAZA Biobank

- If you are in Europe, you may send samples to the EAZA Biobank (Copenhagen hub) to facilitate international sample transfer. If doing so, please remember to:
 - Complete the Biobank's [Trade Document](#) (which also contains information for sending samples to Copenhagen). This can be submitted electronically or as a hard copy
 - Complete the Biobank's Material Transfer Agreement (choose either sample [donation](#) or [loan](#)). This can be submitted electronically or as a hard copy
 - More information on the Biobank's sampling, storage and shipping protocols can be found [here](#)

Ape Heart Project (EAZA Great Ape TAG Endorsed)

Twycross Zoo, Burton Road, Atherstone, Warwickshire, UK, CV9 3PX

Email: heartproject@twycrosszoo.org

Website: twycrosszoo.org/conservation/research-at-twycross-zoo/ape-heart-

- If you are outside the UK and EU, CITES permits may be needed
 - CITES exemption is possible for scientific institutions (see article VII, paragraph 6 of the CITES convention). Your institution may apply
- Shipments to the UK from European countries should be accompanied by a copy of this [Facilitation Letter](#)
- It is advised that all packages should be labelled on the outside with the diamond ‘UN3373’ sticker/image and the text “Exempt animal specimen”
- Basic packaging requirements:
 - Leak-proof primary receptacle
 - Leak-proof secondary receptacle/packaging
 - Absorbent material (e.g. cotton wool) in sufficient quantity to absorb any leakage of sample
 - Internal filler/cushioning to protect contents and limit movement
- It is advised that you seek clarification from your courier or postal service prior to sending packages, if there is uncertainty
- Please complete the Ape Heart Project’s sample submission form, found on our [website](#). This can be submitted digitally
- Please provide a copy of the animal’s post-mortem report and any photos taken of the heart during the post-mortem (if applicable)
- When sending samples, the submitting institution is thereby in agreement that:
 - The samples are being *donated* to the Ape Heart Project and they may be used for future research on great ape health and disease



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*This document is correct at the time of printing
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