

Michigan State University Bone Marrow Test

The bone submission form for the veterinary college at Michigan State University is available at 517-353-1683, or find it online at www.animalhealth.msu.edu

The sample has to be within 48 hours of death if it's warm out, one week if outside during winter. It tells the nutritional status at the time of death. A sample of long bone should be sent.

Test costs \$20.

This test should be in conjunction with a general necropsy, as an animal which was in good shape, then changed hands and starved to death may have not had time for the changes in bone marrow but still died of starvation. In that case, the necropsy would reveal no fat on the liver, but some evidence of nutrition may still be present in the bone marrow. Or, conversely, an animal which was starving and then rescued may have gotten some decent nutrition and then died, but the bone would still show starvation which was not actually happening at that pointing either case, the physical necropsy would show a more immediate time frame.

The bone marrow test is more useful as a rule out, where the owners claim there was something else medically wrong with the animal.

The toxicologist is Dr Wilson Rumbelha at 517-353-5231

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