# Post-Mortem Report

## Victorian Schools Animal Ethics Committee

When animals die unexpectedly, or where the veterinarian is unable to explain a cause of death, or where euthanasia has been carried out, a post-mortem examination needs to be conducted. This **Post-Mortem report** must be submitted to the VSAEC within five working days of becoming aware of the death.

Once completed and signed, this form should be emailed to [animalethics@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:animalethics@education.vic.gov.au)

Post-mortem examinations should generally be undertaken as soon as possible after death and preferably no later than 24 hours post death. Animal bodies can be refrigerated but must not be frozen as freezing destroys the tissues and minimises the value of the examination to ascertain the cause of death.

The teacher needs to complete the project overview and post-mortem details sections prior to the veterinarian completing the examination details section.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

***This section is to be completed by the Teacher:***

**School Information**

SPPL Number:

School Name:

Teacher/Applicant Name:

Principal Name:

**Project Application Details**

Title of Project:

Approval Reference Number:

Application Approval Date:

### POST-MORTEM DETAILS:

***This section is to be completed by the Teacher:***

**Species of animal:**

**Number of animals\* involved in post-mortem:**

*\*Note if there is more than one animal involved, a separate Post-Mortem Report must be submitted for each animal*

**Date of animal death:** (DD/MM/YYYY format)

**Veterinarian details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Veterinarian Name |  |
| Practice name |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Address |  |
| Transport plan |  |

### EXAMINATION DETAILS:

***This section is to be completed by the veterinarian.***

The VSAEC recommends that veterinarians discuss their findings and suggestions with the teacher to help them understand how to reduce the risk of death to animals during projects.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Description of animal (species, sex age, weight) |  |
| Describe the post-mortem examination and gross findings |  |
| Describe any post-mortem laboratory test and their results |  |
| Post-mortem diagnosis and comments on the potential cause of death |  |
| Suggestions as to how the death could have been prevented, if any |  |

### DECLARATION:

***Teacher***

* I declare that the information provided above is accurate.
* A Principal-class employee at my school is aware of this report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Teacher: |  |
| Signature of Teacher: |  |
| Name of Principal-class employee: |  |
| Date (dd/mm/yyyy): |  |

***Veterinarian***

* I declare that the information provided above is accurate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Veterinarian: |  |
| Signature of Veterinarian: |  |
| Date (dd/mm/yyyy): |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *For administrative use only* | | |
| Document name: | Approval date: | Date of next review: |
| Post-Mortem Report | 5 July 2021 | 5 July 2023 |