

Comparative Pathology Laboratory

Center for Comparative Medicine

Tissue Cassette Labeling Guidelines

Because the Histology Section of the Comparative Pathology Laboratory (CPL) processes large numbers of tissue cassettes from numerous investigators and these cassettes go through multiple steps in the process of producing stained sections, it is imperative that each investigator's cassettes be properly and clearly labeled for ease of identification and preservation of tissue identity.

- Label cassettes with #2 lead pencil as solvents used during processing will dissolve and remove markings from many types of ink marking pens.
- Markings on the cassette should be kept to a minimum and clearly legible.
- Minimally, each cassette should be clearly labeled with a Accession/Project number on the front beveled end along with a sequential cassette/block number.
- Documentation of the contents of the cassettes is preferably performed on a document (Submission Form) that accompanies the tissues/cassettes.

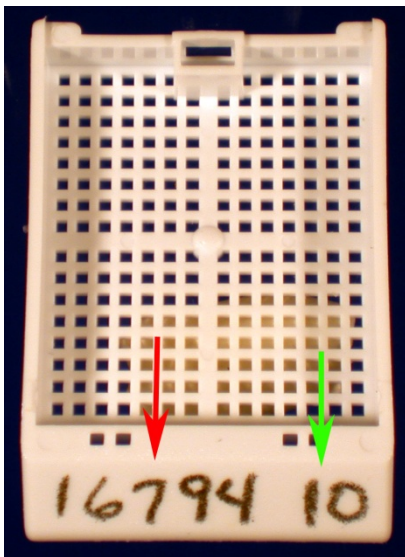


Figure 1 Properly label tissue cassette with a Comparative Pathology Laboratory Accession # (red arrow) and a sequential cassette number clearly marked on the front beveled end of the cassette

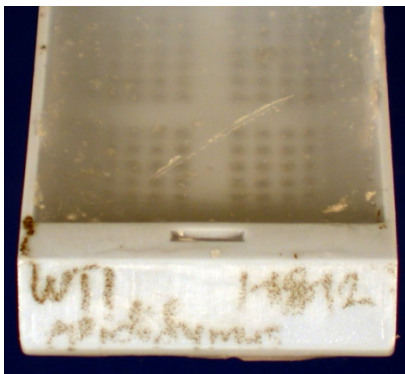


Figure 2 Example of a poorly labeled cassette that is not only more difficult to read but if submitted in a batch with other similar cassettes could lead to misidentification.

Minimum Acceptable Requirements For Submission of Tissue Cassettes to CPL for processing and sectioning:

1. All cassettes clearly sequentially numbered starting a 1 (**Cannot** be numbered on the lid or back of the cassette)
2. All cassettes must be listed on the accompanying CPL Submission Form.
3. If cassette is not marked with the CPL Accession #, at least one side of the cassette must be left blank for lab use.