Instructions for Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpesvirus (EEHV) Sample Submission

Please submit all samples on plenty of dry ice in a sealed styrofoam container.

- For a sick elephant with suspected active EEHV infection, please send at least 1-2 ml of whole blood (EDTA, lavender top tube). It is best to transfer the blood to a freezer-safe tube (not glass) after thoroughly mixing with EDTA. We have received broken glass tubes in the past.

- We can test any tissue for EEHV from deceased elephants, but it must be frozen (preferably in liquid nitrogen or dry ice, or store in a –70 °C freezer). Heart, liver and spleen are the best organs to test for EEHV.

- We would like to test placenta from all newborn/stillborn/aborted elephants. Please freeze a 1 inch³ piece (preferably in liquid nitrogen or dry ice, or store in a –70 °C freezer).

- For EEHV titers, please send at least 2 mls of serum (preferably more). Freeze immediately and send on dry ice.

- Please include all pertinent elephant information (including history) on the attached form.

- The best day to ship (FedEx) would be Wednesday for a Thursday arrival. Please call Erin or Laura before shipping samples:

  Erin Latimer: 202-673-4869 (W)
  703-471-2168 (H)
  elatimer1@cox.net or latimere@si.edu

  OR

  Laura Richman 301-398-4741 (W)
  301-253-8723 (H)
  RichmanL@MedImmune.com or richmanl@comcast.net

FedEx to:

Erin Latimer/Laura Richman
Smithsonian, National Zoological Park
Department of Pathology
3001 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 673-4869
Request for EEHV testing
Department of Pathology
Smithsonian National Zoo
3001 Connecticut Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 673-4869

Date ________________________
Requestor’s name ______________________________________________________________
Institution _____________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Phone/email ____________________________________________________________________

Animal Name/ISIS # _____________________________________________________________
Age ______________________________________________
Species ___________________________________________
Reason for request (i.e. current symptoms of possible EEHV, or possible exposure to EEHV)
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
Type of samples being sent _______________________________________________________

Before sending samples, please call Erin Latimer  202-673-4869 (W) 703-471-2168 (H)

or

Laura Richman  301-398-4741 (W) 301-253-8723 (H)

Please send samples **overnight on dry ice in a sealed cooler**. The best day to send samples is Wednesday, for Thursday delivery.