

**Post mortem procedure for neonates/foetuses**

**Necropsy Examination**

*As for the standard post-mortem template PLUS:*

1. Estimate stage of gestation.

2. Measure the Crown to Rump Length: from the highest point on the skull (external occipital protuberance) to the base of the tail.

3. Note gross appearance of placenta and if it's complete.

4. Examine for congenital abnormalities: limb deformities, cleft palate, hernias, hydrocephalus, etc.

5. Check if lungs were inflated: pink or dark red colour; sink or float in water or formalin.

6. Observe if the ductus arteriosus is contracted and if the foramen ovale is closed.

7. Determine if suckling has occurred: check stomach for milk curds; and note amount, viscosity and colour of upper and lower GI tract contents.

**Additional fixed tissues:**

- Placenta and foetal membranes

- Umbilicus/umbilical area

**Additional frozen tissue to save and store in case further diagnostics are required:**

- Placenta

- For aborted foetuses and still births, freeze stomach contents & lung