Postmortem blood is the preferred sample for anthrax testing at OADDL. Entire carcasses should not be submitted due to the health risk it poses to the public and laboratory staff.

Initial screening of the blood sample by microscopic examination will be performed. However, animals undergoing decomposition have cadaver bacilli in their blood vessels, so bacterial culturing is required to definitively rule-out anthrax. Bacterial culturing takes at least 24 hours.

To prevent any leakage, please double-bag all blood samples submitted for anthrax testing. Paperwork should be placed outside the bags.

Additional testing may be performed on blood samples that are negative for anthrax to rule-out other causes of acute death such as anaplasmosis or lead toxicity.

– Dr. A. Ramachandran