

## Methods for Animal Blood Collection and Shipment

Animal blood samples should be collected by the client in RNAprotect Animal Blood Tubes [Part #: 76544 (50 x 100ul tubes), 76554 (50 x 500ul tubes), Qiagen- Valencia, CA]. The expected RNA yields as mentioned in the Qiagen RNAprotect Animal Blood Kit manual are as follows: 100 ul mouse blood- 4-8 ug of RNA yield and 500 ul rat blood- 10-30 ug RNA yield. Follow the instructions provided in the Qiagen RNAprotect Animal Blood Tubes circular (EN-RNAprotect-Animal-Blood-Tubes.pdf), with the options mentioned here. In brief:

- (1) Make sure Qiagen RNAprotect Animal Blood tubes are properly labeled and equilibrated to 15-25C prior to use.
- (2) Prepare the animal for blood collection (e.g., by tail, ear, or saphenous vein puncture), and immediately add 100 or 500 ul of blood to the Qiagen RNAprotect Animal Blood tube (100 ul or 500 ul tubes respectively).  
**Do not collect more or substantially less than the tube's allotted volume.**
- (3) Immediately close the tube, and gently invert mix 8-10 times. Store upright at 15-25C for up to 48 hours; 2-8C for up to 14 days; or at -20C or below for several months.  
**Equilibrate the filled tubes for a minimum of 2 hours at room temperature prior to freezing.**
- (4) Freeze the tubes at -20C for 24 hours and then transfer the tubes to a -80C freezer for long term storage.

### Shipping

Select a box for shipment that has an external dimension of at least 25 cm in each dimension. The box should have a sturdy cardboard exterior and inner Styrofoam box with wall thickness of at least 2.5 cm. Fill the storage box with 1.5 kg of dry ice. Cool a tube rack or 133 mm x 133 mm x 48 mm vial storage box in the shipping container. Transfer the frozen sample tubes to the storage box. Fill in the free areas of the vial storage box with dry ice and secure the vial storage box top over the samples using wire or string. Fill the Styrofoam shipping container with additional dry ice, and packing peanuts (if necessary) in order to minimize free space in the package. The total dry ice content should be at least 3-4 kg per 24-hour shipping period. Use FedEx overnight delivery to ship the package to ORB at the address below. Affix the dry ice sticker to the exterior of the package and record the same dry ice weight on the sticker as was used during set-up of the shipment (may require metric to English unit conversion).

Attention: David Willoughby

Ocean Ridge Biosciences, LLC  
394 SW 12th Avenue  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
Phone: 754-600-5128  
Emergency Phone: 561-427-5548

### Qiagen RNAprotect Animal Blood Tubes Handbook:

<http://www.qiagen.com/us/resources/resourcedetail?id=a400ba44-af8f-45cc-bbb9-33a16bb38273&lang=en>