

1. Apply whole blood, bone marrow or buffy coat to the FTA Card. Small, thin sections of fresh tissue may also be smeared/pressed onto the card so that it is uniformly distributed and thoroughly in contact with the paper. If there is enough sample available, we prefer to have two blood/tissue spots from each individual or item (see Figure 1). Take care not to cross-contaminate spots from more than one individual or item. Allow the spots to dry completely.

2. Clearly label the box(es) on the protective flap with unique sample identifier(s) (Figure 2), indicating if any of the spots are duplicates.

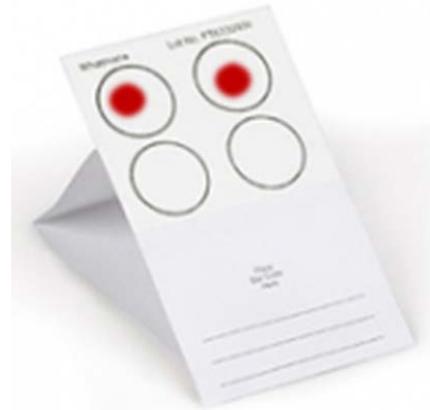
3. Seal dry FTA cards in a labeled paper or glassine envelope for shipping.

4. Please complete an NOS Evidence Exam Request form and a chain of custody. Place the forms in an envelope accompanying the samples.

5. Ship to us by overnight courier. Please call or email if you need our UPS account number. Samples should only be shipped on Monday through Wednesday, as no one is available to accept shipments at the lab on Saturdays.

7. Please email [evidence.custodian@noaa.gov](mailto:evidence.custodian@noaa.gov), then ship samples to:

Evidence Custodian  
NOS Marine Forensics Lab  
219 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, SC 29412



**Figure 1** Placement of Animal # 1's blood spots on FTA card

Sample ID	
Field ID number	Field ID number

↑ Tuck cover here ↑

**FTA  
Plant Card**

Whatman

**Figure 2** Label corresponding boxes on the protective flap. Remaining spots can be used for additional samples or animals.

*\* This protocol of standard operating procedures (SOPs)/ guidelines (SOGs) fully incorporates the NOAA/ NCCOS Environmental Management Systems (EMS) requirements and conforms to the Executive Order 13423. The SOPs/SOGs include appropriate considerations regarding evaluating and minimizing an environmental footprint, and implementing energy and water conservation directives.*



**NOS Marine Forensics - Standard Protocol**  
Collecting and Shipping Blood on FTA cards

**Questions?**

Feel free to contact us if you would like us to supply you with a sampling kit or if you have any questions about sampling, preserving, or shipping evidence.

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