

## GONAD RESCUE PROTOCOL

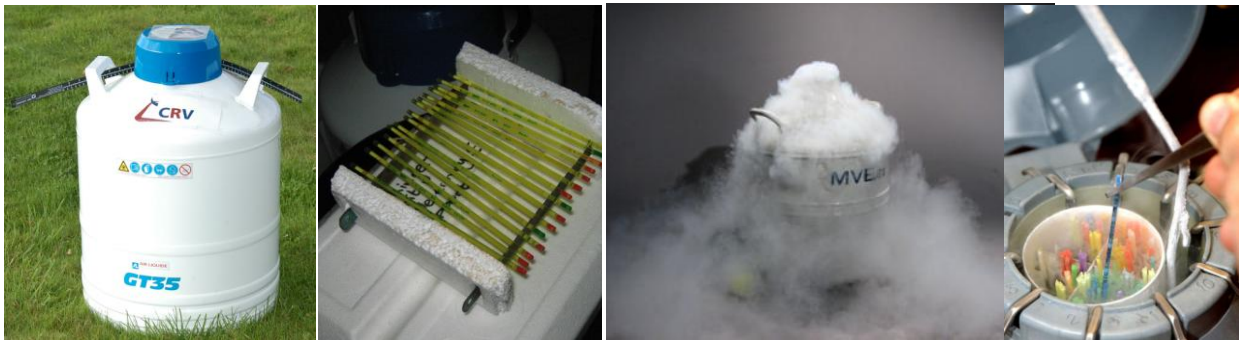
Valuable genetic material is lost when animals (suddenly) die or need to be put down for medical reasons. Most people know that gametes may be collected from healthy living animals: Semen collection by electro-ejaculation and oocyte collection by Ovum Pick-Up (OPU) are possible in anaesthetized animals. However, many people don't realize the existence of a final opportunity for fertility preservation at the end of an animal's lifespan.

We can save valuable genetics from animals post mortem:

- when euthanasia is scheduled
- after sudden death
- during castration procedures
- *in situ*: from hunted animals or poached animals

**“Save the Gonads” is an initiative to take the last opportunity and attempt viable gamete retrieval post mortem.**

**Find details on how to treat obtained gonads below:**



**For more information:**  
Visit: [www.profetura.com](http://www.profetura.com)

Or

EMAIL:

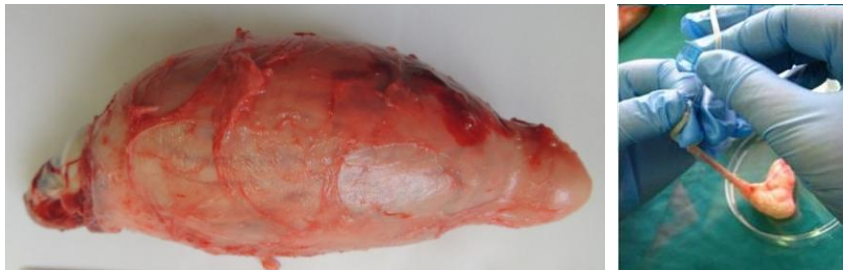
[Imke.lueders@geolifes.com](mailto:Imke.lueders@geolifes.com) (Germany)  
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## ♂ Testicle collection protocol ♂

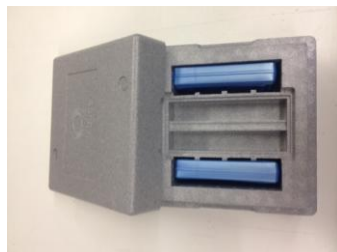
Out of each epididymis, we may collect millions of sperm cells. Should these be viable, they can be cryopreserved and stored long term in liquid nitrogen. Studies have already shown that this semen can be used in the future with acceptable fertility results.

### What to do:

- **PLEASE INFORM RECIPIENT BY EMAIL OR PHONE (see details below!), WE MAY COME TO COLLECT THE SAMPLE OR IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, please....**
- Collect testicles as soon as possible (best within 1 hour, up to 4 hours is ok) after sudden death or during euthanasia or anesthesia via routine castration techniques. Leave as much spermatic cord as possible with the epididymis. Place a ligature around the spermatic cord to prevent semen or blood leakage.



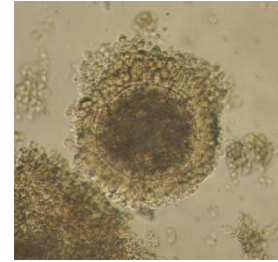
- Rinse entire testicles with Lactated Ringer's solution to clean them from remaining blood and
- Place in labeled zip lock bag or any container and add 10 ml of Lactated Ringer's solution with antibiotics (gentamicin) for longer transport to avoid dehydration and bacterial overgrowth.
- **Cooled** transport (4-6°C) in closed Styrofoam box **by overnight courier** with frozen cooling packs. Avoid direct contact between testicles and frozen ice packs.
- Send it to one of the closest specialized institution to evaluate, process and store the semen for future use (see below).



*Correct shipment o cooled samples, rhino sperm stained*

## ♀ Ovary collection protocol ♀

Both mature and immature oocytes can be collected from ovaries. Depending on the species, there are different approaches available. Ovaries collected immediately post mortem are still viable and immediately collected oocytes potentially useful for IVF/ICSI protocols. Small pieces of ovarian cortex may be cryopreserved as well.



*Aspirating oocytes from an ovary, histological section through ovary, giraffe oocyte*

### What to do:

- **PLEASE INFORM RECIPIENT BY EMAIL OR PHONE (see details below!) WE MAY COME TO COLLECT THE SAMPLE OR IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, please....**
- Collect ovaries as soon as possible (within 1 -4 hours) after sudden death or during anesthesia via routine ovariectomy/gonadectomy techniques.
- Rinse ovaries with Lactated Ringer's solution to clean them from remaining blood and add Lactated Ringer's solution during longer transport to avoid dehydration.
- **Cooled** transport (4-6°C) in closed Styrofoam box with frozen cooling packs **with overnight courier**. Avoid direct contact between ovaries and frozen ice packs.
- Send it to one of the closest specialized institution to evaluate, process and store the oocytes/ovarian tissue for future use. Oocytes will be collected from the follicles of the ovary and stored according to techniques available for the different species. Ovarian cortex will be preserved as needed.

**We are currently looking for elephant ovaries (African and Asian), any rhino species ovaries or testicles, giraffe and okapi ovaries and testicles.**

For more information  
visit: [www.profetura.com](http://www.profetura.com)

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