The Challenge of Margin Evaluation
Assessment of surgical margins on large, oddly-shaped tissue specimens is a challenging task for the histology technician, pathologist, and submitting veterinarian. It is often difficult to communicate results of a margin evaluation to a submitting veterinarian in a written report, or even by phone. With certain tumor cases, it is important for the clinician to know to which margin the tumor extends in order to better direct additional resection.

Use of Digital Photography
DCPAH's Surgical Pathology service can now digitally photograph tissues submitted for full margin evaluation before trimming. The histology technician can then “draw” on the photos to indicate where each section of tissue is located. This is especially helpful when large numbers of sections are needed to adequately assess all lateral and deep margins. Knowing how the tissues are sectioned helps the pathologist assess the true surgical margins. In order to assist the submitting veterinarian to understand the results of a margin evaluation, the photographs are now attached to the case online. Photos are taken on all margin evaluations and a link will be available in WebView when the case number is entered. See Figures A and B: The pathologist can indicate in the biopsy report that neoplastic cells extend to the margin in section A3 or A5, respectively. The clinician can view the photos online and decide exactly where additional surgical resection may be needed. DCPAH is pleased to provide enhanced client service by offering this new technology.

How Should Samples Be Submitted?
Recommended guidelines for submitting tissues for full margin evaluation can be found on our website at: animalhealth.msu.edu. For more information, please contact the Anatomic Pathology lab at 517.353.1683.
DCPAH is a full-service veterinary diagnostic laboratory, fully accredited by the AAVLD for all species through 2017.

Sample Submission Forms
Visit our website at animalhealth.msu.edu to access our most current submittal forms. Customized forms preprinted with your clinic information are also available at no cost via the Product Order Form.

Unbeatable Shipping
DCPAH offers a variety of shipping options. Our mailers comply with U.S. Postal Service, FedEx, UPS, and DHL regulations. All UPS mailers include prepaid overnight weekday delivery. All U.S. Postal Service mailers include prepaid delivery; delivery time will vary depending on your location.

Order Mailing Supplies
Individual, insulated, and biopsy mailers are available. Contact us at 517.353.1683 or complete the Product Order Form available online at animalhealth.msu.edu.

Packaging and Mailing Samples
For shipping recommendations for individual tests, please refer to the information provided at animalhealth.msu.edu under “Available Tests.”

Speak Directly to Experts
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Customer Service Hours
Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST

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