#1 Preferred Sample: RETROPHARYNGEAL LYMPH NODE

- located deep in the space behind the trachea and oral cavity/esophagus; above the opening to the cerebellum and brain stem
- ‘bean’ like shape and ‘gummy bear’ like feel
- usually marbled in color (unless head shot, then could be all red or black)

Preference #2: TONSIL

- located behind the tonsillar crypts
- spongier than lymph node, but similarly shaped
- tonsil tissue contains folds (crypts) – unique to tonsil
Preference #3: OBEX

- a bifurcation of the brain stem, located just beneath the cerebellum
  - located 2” - 3” inside skull socket (occipital condyles)
  - identified by the ‘V’ shape on the top surface
  - ‘V’ must be identifiable for sample to be testable

UNTESTABLE SAMPLES

FREQUENTLY SUBMITTED

- salivary gland – uniform tan/pink, resembles chewed bubble gum
- thyroid gland – on neck below larynx, attached to trachea, long and flat
  - muscle/meat
- brain stem (no ‘V’) or unidentifiable brain matter