

ANIMAL RABIES LABORATORY SUBMISSION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS

Use one form for EACH specimen
Complete all Information
Label each specimen to correspond with the submission form
Read full instructions on last page

FOR LAB USE ONLY

Laboratory Assigned Number
Date Received
Time Received
Method of transport

SUBMITTER INFORMATION

Name of facility Phone
Street Address Fax
City State Zip code

ANIMAL INFORMATION

Animal Species Date of collection/death/euthanasia
Other Did the animal show signs of rabies? Yes No Unknown

DOMESTIC ANIMALS ONLY

Was animal vaccinated for rabies? Yes, up-to-date Yes, not up-to-date No Unknown
If dog, breed?

OWNER INFORMATION

Last Name First Name Phone
Street Address
City Zip Code County

LAB SUBMISSION REASON (must select one)

- Bite from high risk animal must = neurologic animal, bat, raccoon, skunk, fox, or coyote
- Saliva from high risk animal into open wound or mucus membrane
- Bat in room with person sleeping or person/pet had physical contact with bat
- Bat in area with pet, small child, person with dementia or impaired individual
- Bat in house or public setting where anxiety is high and there is concern about people seeking PEP
- Neurologic animal that a veterinarian suspects could have rabies, even with no exposure to a pet or person
- Dog, cat, or ferret dying during the 10-day confinement after a bite

Please provide Point of Contact Information if selecting one of the three options below

Dog, cat, or ferret that cannot survive the 10-day confinement for humane reasons after approval from local health department

Unprovoked bite from pet, after approval from local health department

Other: Approved by local or state health department

Name of Approval Contact Agency

Telephone Number

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF RABIES SPECIMENS

What animals can be submitted for rabies testing at the IDPH Laboratory?

1. Select the appropriate choice under lab submission reason.
2. NOTE: All healthy dogs, cats and ferrets who bite in a provoked manner and are euthanized before the 10 day observation period, rabbits, rodents, bovine, deer, elk, horse, ovine, and other large animals should be submitted to the University of Illinois Veterinary Laboratory. Any mammal can be submitted. A fee is charged for testing.

University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
2001 South Lincoln Ave
PO Box U, Room 1137
Urbana, IL 61802
217-333-1620 (phone)

How to prepare specimen

1. Head/brain removal for rabies suspect animals should only be done by individuals who are immunized against rabies and trained in the proper precautions and wear personal protective equipment to avoid exposure
2. Clean and disinfect all instruments used for head removal after each use

Submission to the IDPH laboratory

- **NO** live animals will be accepted
- If animal weighs less than 2 lbs (e.g. bat) whole carcass can be submitted
- For all other animals only submit the head
- **ONLY** rabies testing is done on animal brains
- No fee for testing at the IDPH laboratories

Packaging and Transportation

1. IDPH has no pickup and delivery service and assumes no responsibility for any specimen until it is received and identified.
2. Place the specimen in a primary container such as a sealed plastic bag. Bats and other small animals must be placed inside a clear zip-lock bag or equivalent. Place the primary container in a watertight secondary container with sufficient absorbent material to assure complete absorption if leakage should occur. If plastic bags are used, please TRIPLE bag each specimen. Place the test requisition on the outside of the secondary container. Package forms so they remain clean.
3. Place the secondary container inside a rigid outer container with sufficient cold packs to maintain refrigeration temperatures. The minimum volume of cold packs surrounding the specimen is double the size of the specimen (never use ice cubes)
4. Ample insulation surrounding the specimen and cold packs are essential (e.g. Styrofoam packing material or newspaper).
5. Do not freeze specimens unless the specimen is held over a long weekend or if the animal is decomposed. Cold, not frozen is the general rule. Do not package rabies specimens with dry ice since dry ice may freeze the specimens. Test results could be delayed if specimen is frozen.
6. Pack rabies specimens separately from other types of specimens (even if they are going to the same lab)
7. Messenger/courier by ground transport. Place the secondary container and test requisition in the shipping container. The shipping container must be rigid such as a cooler and labeled with the UN3373 biological substance category marking. Close securely. Styrofoam coolers must be placed in a cardboard box.
8. Commercial carrier by ground/air transport. Place the secondary container and test requisition in the shipping container. Label the outer shipping container with the appropriate address. Complete the return address section to include the name of the person shipping the package, business name and address and a business phone number. The shipping container must include the UN3373 biological substance category B marking.
9. Do not ship specimens to arrive on a holiday or weekend. Only ship on Thursdays if guaranteed overnight delivery.
10. If an urgent specimen needs to be tested over the weekend call the IEMA number 1-800-782-7860 to make arrangements.

IDPH Laboratory
2121 West Taylor St
Chicago, IL 60612
312-793-4760 (phone)

IDPH Laboratory
825 North Rutledge St
Springfield, IL 62702
217-782-6562 (phone)

IDPH Laboratory
1155 South Oakland Ave
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-457-5131 (phone)