

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.
- Skunk for surveillance purposes.

If selecting one of the three options below, provide point of contact information.

- Dog, cat, or ferret that cannot survive the 10-day confinement for humane reasons after approval from a 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 that 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 S. Lincoln Ave.
P.O. Box U, Room 1137
Urbana, IL 61802
217-333-1620

How to prepare specimen

1. Head/brain removal for rabies suspect animals should only be done by individuals who are immunized against rabies, 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 the animal weighs less than 2 pounds (e.g., bat), the 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.
- **The lab cannot return any part of an animal body once it has been submitted to the laboratory.**

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 resealable 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, 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., polystyrene 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 the 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. Polystyrene 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, 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 after hours or over the weekend, call the Illinois Emergency Management Agency number (800-782-7860) to make arrangements.

IDPH Laboratory
2121 W. Taylor St.
Chicago, IL 60612
312-793-4760

IDPH Laboratory
825 N. Rutledge St.
Springfield, IL 62702
217-782-6562

IDPH Laboratory
1155 S. Oakland Ave.
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-457-5131