



**MDH
Use Only**

Rabies Specimen Submission Form

Physicians, veterinarians, and law enforcement may consult the Minnesota Department of Health at (651) 201-5414, 24/7 to obtain information on rabies, including human exposure, prophylaxis and bite management. The public may consult the Minnesota Department of Health M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the same number.

Fee for testing is \$25.00. Out of state add 10%.

Party responsible: _____

VDL Use Only

Submitter

Person submitting sample: _____ Date: ____/____/____
(check all that apply): Owner Veterinarian Exposed person Other _____

If veterinarian, name of clinic: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ State: _____ County: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

Test Animal

Species: _____ Owned Stray Wild

Date of death: ____/____/____ Tested animal was: Euthanized Died naturally Killed Found dead

Owner (if different from submitter): _____ Phone: _____

Address/Location of tested animal: _____

City/Zip: _____ State: _____ County: _____

Explain situation: _____

Cremation request (check one): Mass (no remains returned) Individual (remains returned). Arranged by owner or veterinary clinic. An animal testing positive for rabies cannot be released for individual cremation.

Exposure

No human exposure Human exposure Date of exposure: ____/____/____

Type of exposure: Bite (where on body): _____ Non-bite

Person(s) exposed: _____ Adult Child

Where did exposure occur? _____ County: _____

Contact phone for exposed person (Phone 1): _____ (Phone 2): _____

Laboratory VDL

- Live
- Dead:
 - Whole body
 - Head
 - Brain: Hippocampus
 - Cerebellum
 - Brain stem
- Sent to MDH: _____ Date _____ Initials _____
- Condition
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Autolyzed
 - Traumatized
 - Dried
 - No tissue

MDH

Test date: ____/____/____

- FA rabies positive FA rabies negative
- Unsatisfactory specimen Equivocal

Comments: _____

Instructions and Information

Whenever possible, specimens should be hand delivered. If this is not possible, ship by a direct overnight delivery service (such as Fed Ex). For next business day results, a specimen must be received at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) by 11:00 a.m. Specimens should not be sent by mail. There is a \$25.00 fee for testing of all specimens and a 10% additional charge for out of state submissions. Any costs associated with euthanasia, specimen preparation, packing, shipping, and testing are the responsibility of the person requesting the examination.

Specimens should be delivered to:

Business hours (M-F, 8:00-4:30)

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus
1333 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (612) 625-8787
Fax: (612) 624-8707

Non business hours and holidays*

Veterinary Medical Center (VMC)
Emergency Receiving
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus
1365 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: (612) 625-9711

*Live bats will not be accepted after business hours. Notify personnel that this is a suspect rabies specimen.

Packing requirements:

- Specimens should be chilled (not frozen) until ready to ship.
- Double bag specimens in heavy, leak-proof plastic bags, securely sealed and ship in a leak-proof container, preferably a Styrofoam box with a cardboard exterior.
- Leak-proof freezer packs should be included in the shipping container to keep specimen cold.
DO NOT PACK IN WET ICE OR DRY ICE
- Newspaper or other absorbent packing material should be used to fill space within the container to ensure temperature stability and to absorb fluids in case of leakage.
- Complete this form, place in a plastic bag and attach securely to the outside of the specimen container. Form is also available at: <http://www.vdl.umn.edu/ourservices/rabies/home.html>.
- Label the exterior of the box, "Veterinary Diagnostic Specimen."

Specimen:

Companion animals should be euthanized by a licensed veterinarian. Whole bodies of dogs, cats, ferrets, skunks, bats and other small animals may be sent intact. Bats may be delivered alive during regular VDL business hours as long as they are well contained, the container is labeled "Live Bat for Rabies Testing" and the bat is hand delivered, not shipped. Unless a full necropsy is to be performed, ship only the heads of large animals such as cows, horses, and pigs. If the brain is removed by a veterinary professional, the entire brain should be sent, including the cerebrum with hippocampus, cerebellum and brain stem. Bilateral samples must be tested as unilateral rabies infection of large animals has been reported.

It is imperative that brain samples not be fixed in chemical preservatives. Keep the specimen chilled, not frozen until shipped. However, samples that have been inadvertently frozen can often yield satisfactory results. Grossly deteriorated specimens will not be tested.

The VDL does not provide individual cremation services. Animal remains will be processed using mass chemical cremation unless arrangements for private cremation are made by the client or the client's veterinarian. Once results of all tests are known, animals testing negative for rabies may be released to a private cremation service. Animals testing positive for rabies will not be released for cremation due to the risk of human exposure.

Reptiles, amphibians and birds are not susceptible to rabies, and these animals are not tested for it. Small rodents (hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, squirrels, chipmunks, rats, mice, gophers, etc.), insectivores (moles and shrews), and lagomorphs (hares and rabbits) DO NOT pose a risk for rabies in Minnesota. MDH strongly discourages testing them for rabies.