

**MDH
Use
Only**

Rabies Specimen Submission Form

Physicians and veterinarians may obtain information on rabies 24/7 from the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5414. Public calls are taken at the same number Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Submitter

Date: ___/___/___

Name of submitter: _____

Vet clinic/Org. name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment required at drop off. \$32 in state, \$34.20 out of state. Additional \$25 for after hours.

Responsible for payment: Veterinary clinic Submitter

VDL Use Only

Test Animal

Owned Stray Wild

Species: _____ If bat: Alive Dead

Animal name or ID: _____

Date of death: ___/___/___ Tested animal: Euthanized Killed Found dead

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

Address of test animal: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Explain situation:



Rabies Form

Other potential disease rule-outs: _____

H5N1 testing- CNS cats only (no charge for submitter)

Necropsy: Yes No Maybe
(Necropsy requires additional charges and forms- Necropsy/Tissue - General Exam (<https://vdl.umn.edu/tests-fees/>))

Cremation: Mass (no remains returned) Individual (ashes returned)
Arranged by owner or vet clinic, refer to cremation services on back.

Exposure

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

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

Person(s) exposed: _____ Age(s): _____

Where did exposure occur? _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate phone: _____

Laboratory only

- Whole body Head Brain
- Hippocampus
- Insufficient
- Cerebellum
- Insufficient
- Brain stem
- Insufficient

Alive Dead Condition: Good Fair Autolyzed
 Traumatized Dried No tissue

Comments: _____

Date sent to MDH: ___/___/___ Initials: _____

Cost:

There is a fee of \$22.00 per animal plus a \$10.00 lab accession fee (\$32 total). Out-of-state submissions have an additional 10% charge (\$34.20 total). There is an additional \$25 after hours fee if a sample is submitted on the weekend or between 4:30 p.m. and 7:45 a.m. on weekdays. Charges associated with euthanasia, specimen preparation, packaging, shipping and testing are the responsibility of the person requesting the rabies testing.

Species of animal to be tested:

Companion animals should be euthanized by a veterinarian. Live production animals should be delivered during VDL business hours (see below). Live bats will be accepted during normal business hours only; they should be hand delivered and labeled "Live Bat for Rabies Testing." 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, and should not be submitted for testing. For guidance on unusual situations involving bites from these animals, please call 651-201-5414. Reptiles, amphibians, and birds are not susceptible to rabies and will not be tested for it.

Specimen preparation:

Complete, bilateral samples of brain stem, hippocampus, and cerebellum are required for rabies testing. If possible, submit the head of large animals and the entire body of small animals. When submitting only the brain, submit the entire brain. Submit fresh, chilled tissues only; do not fix the brain in chemical preservatives. Refrigerate, do not freeze specimens for rabies testing prior to shipping. However, if specimens have been inadvertently frozen, they may yield satisfactory results; do not thaw them prior to shipping. If a bat is captured in the middle of the night, keep the bat cool and call the VDL in the morning.

Packing requirements:

- Chill specimen prior to bagging and packing for hand delivery or shipping by overnight carrier. Specimens that have been bagged and packed for delivery while still warm may arrive in unsatisfactory condition for rabies testing due to autolysis.
- Once chilled, double bag and securely seal specimen in heavy, leak-proof plastic bags. Brain only specimens should be packaged in a hard plastic container to preserve the integrity of the specimen. Place in a leak-proof container, preferably a Styrofoam box with a cardboard exterior.
- Include leak-proof freezer packs in sufficient number to keep the specimen cold during transit. During the summer months particularly, many samples arrive at the VDL warm and in unsatisfactory condition for rabies testing.
- Fill any remaining space within the container with newspaper or other absorbent packing material to absorb fluids in case of leakage.
- Complete this form, place in a plastic bag and attach to the outside of the specimen container.
- Label the exterior of the box, "Veterinary Diagnostic Specimen."

Delivery instructions:

Whenever possible, specimens should be hand delivered. If hand delivery is not possible, ship by an overnight delivery service (such as FedEx). For next day results, specimens must be received at the VDL by 11 a.m. Specimens should never be sent by mail – even Priority mail. Questions about specimen submission should be directed to the VDL.

Specimens should be delivered to:

Business hours (M-F, 8:00-4:30)
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL)
University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus
1333 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 612-625-8787
After 4:30 p.m. and weekend phone: 651-775-0417

Cremation services:

Animal remains will be processed using mass chemical cremation unless arrangements for individual cremation are made by the client or the client's veterinarian. Please indicate individual or mass cremation on the rabies specimen submission form by checking the box. Once the test result is known, an animal testing negative for rabies may be released to a private cremation service. An animal greater than 22 pounds that tests positive for rabies will not be released for cremation due to the risk of human exposure. If an animal is untestable for any reason, remains may be released for individual cremation on a case by case basis.