



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:  Owner  Veterinarian  Exposed person

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic/Org. name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment method:  Check #: \_\_\_\_\_  Money Order  Credit Card

**VDL Use Only**

## Test Animal

Species: \_\_\_\_\_  Owned  Stray  Wild

Animal name or ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of death: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Tested animal was:  Euthanized  Killed  Found dead

Owner (if different from submitter): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of test animal: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain situation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other potential disease rule-outs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Necropsy:**  Yes  No  Maybe (Necropsy requires additional charges and forms. See [www.vdl.umn.edu/services-fees/necropsytissue-general-exam](http://www.vdl.umn.edu/services-fees/necropsytissue-general-exam))

**Cremation:**  Mass (no remains returned)  Individual (ashes returned) Arranged by owner or vet clinic. See 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 \$20.00 fee per animal and a \$10.00 fee per accession. Multiple animals submitted from a related situation (bats from one location, litter of kittens, etc.) will be charged one accession fee. Out-of-state submissions have an additional 10% charge. 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.

**Packing requirements:**

- Chill specimen prior to packing for hand delivery or shipping by overnight carrier. Specimens that have been packed for delivery while still warm may arrive in unsatisfactory condition for rabies testing due to autolysis.
- 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 11:00 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

OR Non-business hours and holidays\*

Veterinary Medical Center

University of Minnesota-St. Paul Campus

1365 Gortner Avenue (adjoining VDL)

St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: 612-625-9711

\*Live bats are not accepted after business hours

**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.