

Date sent to MDH: ___/___/___

Initials:



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://		VDL	
Name of submitter:			_		
Clinic/Org. name:			_	Use	
Address:			_		
City:	Zip:	County:	_	Only	
Phone:	Email:		_		
Payment required at dro	o off. \$30 in state, \$32 out of state.	Additional \$20 for after hours.	_		
Test Animal	☐ Owned ☐ Stray ☐ Wild				
Species:		If bat: ☐ Alive ☐ Dea	nd		
				es Form	
	/ Tested animal was: 🔲 E		11451	00 101111	
Owner (if different from	m submitter):	Ph	none:		
	:				
Explain situation:		,	<u>·</u>		
Other potential diseas	e rule-outs:				
Necropsy: ☐ Yes ☐	No Maybe (Necropsy requires additional of	charges and forms- Necropsy/Tissue	- General Exam (https://	/vdl.umn.edu/tests-fees/))	
Cremation: ☐ Mass (n	o remains returned) 🔲 Individua				
Exposure 🗆	No human exposure	xposure Date of expo	osure://	_	
Type of exposure: \square	Bite, where on body:			🗆 Non-bite	
Person(s) exposed:			Age(s):	
Where did exposure o	ccur?		Count	:y:	
Phone:	one: Alternate phone:				
Laboratory onl	y □ Whole body □ Head □] Brain	☐ Hippoc	ampus	
☐ Alive ☐ Dead	Condition: Good	☐ Fair ☐ Autolyzed		fficient	
	☐ Traumatized	•	☐ Cerebe	llum fficient	
Comments:			☐ Brain st		
				fficient	

Cost:

There is a fee of \$20.00 per animal plus a \$10.00 lab accession fee. Out-of-state submissions have an additional 10% charge. There is an additional \$20 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.