

**New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health Services  
Public Health Laboratories**

**SUBMISSION OF ANIMAL SPECIMENS FOR RABIES TESTING**

The following guidelines are to be followed when submitting an animal specimen to the Public Health Laboratories for rabies testing:

- The accompanying form is required when specimens are submitted.
- Specimens may be submitted by authorized individuals, including NH veterinarians, NH Fish & Game officers, and Animal Control Officers.
- Private citizens may **only** submit specimens **after obtaining approval** from either the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (603-271-4496) or the State Veterinarian's office (603-271-2404).
- If you wish to have a specimen tested but have not yet obtained approval, please contact the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496.

NH PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

General Lab: 603-271-4661 Rabies Lab: 603-271-4665

SUSPECT RABIES INFORMATION FORM

This Information Form must be on the outside of container. Please type or print. Please do not tape this form to the container. Completed form is required for specimen examination.

FOR PHL LAB USE ONLY
DATE:
TIME:
RECEIVED BY:

PERSON / FACILITY - AGENCY REQUESTING TESTING:
Last Name: First Name:
Phone: Fax:
Address:
City/town: State: Zip:

TRANSPORTER (IF DIFFERENT FROM REQUESTER): Facility/Agency:
Last Name: First Name:
Phone: Address:
City/town: State: Zip:

TOWN OF INCIDENT: COUNTY:

ANIMAL TYPE: ANIMAL ID (VET #; OWNER'S NAME):

SUBMITTED ANIMAL'S RABIES VACCINATION STATUS:
CURRENT UNVACCINATED
EXPIRED UNKNOWN

REASON FOR REQUEST: Please check ALL that apply.
Bite Scratch Saliva Handling
Symptoms/Signs of Rabies Found in Home (bats)
Domestic Animal Exposure
Unknown Cause of Death
Other

ANIMAL CAUSE OF DEATH:
Accidental Blunt Force Trauma Drowning Euthanasia Illness Killed by Domestic Animal
Hit by Car Shot Stabbing Suffocation Other

DATE OF DEATH: BY WHOM:
(If applicable)

Person(s) Exposed: Part of Body Exposed:
Date Of Exposure: Domestic Animal Exposed:
Parent or guardian of exposed person, if applicable

Phone: Address:
City/town: State: Zip:

Please list all persons exposed. If additional space is needed, please attach list to this form.

ADDITIONAL RESULT RECIPIENT Hard copy needed

Reason:
Phone: Fax:
Address:
City/town: State: Zip:

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LAB USE ONLY
Test NEGATIVE for Rabies Time Reported to BIDC:
Test POSITIVE for Rabies Analyst Initials: Date:
Unable to Test Comment:

## **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A SPECIMEN FOR RABIES TESTING**

DELIVER SPECIMEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:00 AM TO 3:30 PM

IF POSSIBLE, NOTIFY LABORATORY PRIOR TO DELIVERY: CALL 603-271-4661 or 603-271-4665  
AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY TESTING CALL 603-271-5300

The New Hampshire Public Health Laboratories (PHL) performs rabies testing free of charge on any mammal that has been determined to have exposed a human or domestic animal in a New Hampshire town/city by a Public Health Nurse or other authorized party (see page 1). Small rodents may be tested only on a case-by-case basis after consult with the NH Bureau of Infectious Disease Control (603-271-4496) or NH State Veterinarian (603-271-2404).

Border towns: Be aware that incidents only occurring in NH may be tested at the NH PHL. Specimens associated with incidents occurring outside of NH must be sent to the respective state lab of the town of incident.

**DO NOT DELIVER LIVE ANIMALS.** The lab does not provide euthanasia.

The state does not provide transportation. The city/town where the domestic animal incident occurred is responsible for transporting the suspect animal to the PHL. However, anyone can transport a properly packaged specimen in a timely manner including: the owner of the animal, vet staff, couriers, or the exposed person/ family involved in the incident.

Wild animals: contact the NH Dept. of Fish and Game dispatch: 603 - 271- 3361.

Large animals (i.e. horses) suspected of neurological disease: please contact the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Tel: 603-862-2726. They will remove the brain for testing.

Please LEGIBLY COMPLETE ALL AREAS of the Information Form on the reverse side and attach to the OUTSIDE of the transport container. Please do not use packing tape to attach it.

### SPECIMEN PREPARATION:

- A. Do not club or shoot in the head. The skull must remain intact.
- B. Refrigerate specimen immediately.
- C. Freezing is not recommended. Contact the Public Health Labs before freezing a specimen. Frozen brain tissue softens when thawed and this can prevent reliable testing.
- D. The **head of the animal must be removed** from the body. The only exception is bats, which are accepted whole because we need the body to identify the species.
- E. **Specimen must be fresh.** The specimen should be delivered as soon as possible after the animal's death. The test cannot be performed if the specimen is decomposed or infested with maggots.
- F. Do not send specimen in formalin. The test cannot be performed on formalin-fixed tissues.

### PACKAGING:

- A. Specimen should be double bagged in heavy plastic bags.
- B. EACH bag should be properly sealed.
- C. If specimen has any sharp protruding parts (shattered bone or porcupine quills), wrap it in several layers of newspaper first.
- D. Place properly bagged specimen in an insulated container and surround the specimen with frozen packs or wet ice contained in plastic bags.
- E. If an insulated container is not available, line a box with several layers of newspaper and surround specimen with frozen freezer packs, **ONLY**. Wet ice may leak.
- F. Close securely with tape.
- G. TRANSPORT CONTAINER CANNOT BE RETURNED.