



### RABIES FRA SUBMISSION FORM

150 E. Holt Blvd., Ontario, CA 91761  
Phone: 909-458-9430 | Fax: 909-986-3590

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|--|--|
| Submitting Agency:   | Fax Number (To Receive Report):                |
| Contact Person and Phone Number:   | Contact Person Email:                          |
| Agency Address (To Receive Report):  | Physical Location of Incident (City / County): |
| Animal Species:  | Animal ID Number:                              |
| Type/Breed:  | Activity Number:                               |
| If Bat: Dead or Alive?   | Bite Report Number:                            |
| Animal Description (Color, Sex, Age):  | Human / Animal Contact or Exposure: Yes or No? |
| Animal Vaccination History:  | Animal Health History / Neurological Symptoms: |
| Date / Time of Bite or Exposure:   | Date / Time Animal was Euthanized:             |
| <b>VICTIM INFORMATION</b>  | <b>ANIMAL OWNER INFORMATION</b>                |
| Name:  | Name:  |
| Address:   | Address:                                       |
| City and Zip Code:   | City and Zip Code:                             |
| Synopsis (Describe the Incident):  |  |
| <b>FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY</b>   |  |
| Test Results: <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Specimen Unsatisfactory |  |
| Comments:  |  |
| Microbiologist:  |  |

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ANIMALS FOR RABIES TESTING

## Species of animal to be tested:

- Companion animals (cats, dogs) should be euthanized by a veterinarian or by animal control personnel.
- Wild animals including bats, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and other carnivores with human or pet contact may be submitted by animal control agencies.
- Domestic animals including cattle, horses, and other large herbivores may be submitted by veterinarians.
- Small rodents (hamsters, guinea pigs, squirrels, rats, mice, gophers, etc.), and lagomorphs (hares and rabbits) do not pose a risk for rabies in California, and should not be submitted for testing.

Reptiles, amphibians, and birds are not susceptible to rabies and will not be tested. For guidance on unusual situations involving bites from these animals, please call 909-458-9430.

## Specimen preparation:

- Complete, bilateral samples of brain stem and cerebellum are required for rabies testing.
- If possible, submit the head of large animals and the entire body of bats. 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 stored at room temperature or high ambient temperature may not be suitable for testing.
- Double bag and securely seal specimen in heavy, leak-proof plastic bags. Place in a leak-proof container, either a Styrofoam box with a cardboard exterior or a hard plastic container. Leaking specimens or specimens with blood on the outside of the container are not acceptable and will be rejected.
- 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 lab 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 Golden State Overnight or FedEx). Specimens should never be sent by mail – even Priority mail.

Specimens from suspect rabies animals should be delivered to:

San Bernardino County Public Health Laboratory  
Specimen Receiving, First Floor  
150 E. Holt Blvd.  
Ontario, CA 91761

Questions about specimen submission should be directed to the Public Health Lab:

Phone: (909) 458-9430 | Fax: (909) 986-3590

Business hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (except County holidays)