



RABIES SPECIMEN REQUEST

State Form 37763 (R13 / 3-17)

Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory
550 W. 16th Street, Suite B
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 921-5500

Use a separate form for each specimen. Instructions are on the reverse side of this page. Samples will be analyzed by *Protocol for Postmortem Diagnosis of Rabies in Animals by Direct Fluorescent Antibody Testing* (Rabies Fluorescent Antibody, CDC Protocol).

Section 1. Submitter

Facility _____

Last Name First Name MI

Number & Street Address City State ZIP Code

Telephone Number FAX Number

Type of Submitter Animal Control Veterinarian Local Health Dept. Humane Society Private Citizen Shelter Other _____

Section 2. Exposure

Human Exposure? Yes No If Unknown Why Submitted: _____

Last Name First Name MI Telephone Number

Number & Street Address City State ZIP Code

Date of Exposure Type of Exposure Scratch Bite Handling Other _____

Last Name First Name MI Telephone Number

Number & Street Address City State ZIP Code

Date of Exposure Type of Exposure Scratch Bite Handling Other _____

Section 3. Animal Submitted Information

Type of Animal? Dog Cat Bat Raccoon Skunk Squirrel Opossum Equine Bovine Other _____

Identify breed, color marking _____

Number & Street Address Where Animal was Found City Where Animal was Found State ZIP Code

County GPS Coordinates Latitude Longitude

Date of Death of Animal Date Specimen Collected Date Specimen Shipped

Did the animal exhibit any of the following rabies symptoms? (Check all that apply)
 Convulsions Aggression Excessive salivation Paralysis Unable to eat or drink
 Noticable change in behavior Unknown None

Other Signs/Symptoms (specify): _____

Was animal immunized? Yes No Unknown

If treated by a veterinarian, complete the following

Veterinarian Last Name Veterinarian First Name MI

Veterinarian Office Address City State ZIP Code

Telephone Number

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ANIMAL HEADS AND BATS FOR RABIES TESTING

SPECIMEN

Since brain tissue is examined for the diagnosis of rabies, only the animal head will be accepted for diagnostic purposes. Animals should be euthanized in a manner that will not destroy the brain. The neck should be severed at the midpoint between the base of the skull and shoulders. For bats only, the whole dead animal should be submitted. Brain material from animals with central nervous disease symptoms may be submitted by veterinarians or veterinary diagnostic laboratories as part of their diagnostic process without regard to bite or other exposure status. Only fresh, non-fixed tissue is acceptable. A negative finding for rabies can be made only if a complete cross section of the brain stem and cerebellum is examined. Examination of the brain stem may be made at the level of the pons, medulla, or midbrain. All rabies specimens must be properly packaged before delivery to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Laboratories. **For high priority specimens, please alert the lab (317.921.5834) and send a fax copy of the LimsNet cover sheet or rabies submission form (317.927.7804). Provide tracking numbers when available.**

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION

Specimens can be submitted by LimsNet, an online system that will make results available as PDF files the minute they are released from the lab. To get a free LimsNet account established at your facility for electronic submission and results reporting, call the help desk at (888) 535-0011 or email to LimsAppSupport@isdh.in.gov. Alternatively, a completed Rabies Specimen Request Form must accompany each specimen. The submission form can be found online at <http://www.in.gov/isdh/24550.htm>. An incomplete form may delay testing and make it more difficult to convey vital information to the person(s) exposed.

PACKAGING OF SPECIMENS

Place animal head specimens or whole bat specimens in a leak proof container (e.g., double bag using heavy-duty plastic bags or a metal can with lid) and seal tightly. Place the leak proof container in an insulated shipping carton (e.g., Styrofoam shipper) with sufficient cold packs to maintain refrigeration temperature during shipment. **Do not use wet ice.** Avoid the use of "packing peanuts" inside the insulated shipper. Place the insulated shipping carton into a cardboard shipping box, close lid, and seal. Specimens should be kept cold, but preferably not frozen. Freezing the head will delay testing, since it may take up to 24 hours to thaw; long-term freezing can also damage the brain tissue.

SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS

Shipment via courier service is usually the most rapid method of delivery. The US Postal Service will not accept this type of specimen for mailing. At the time of this printing, United Parcel Service (UPS) will accept specimens for delivery to the ISDH Laboratories if properly packaged. Consult with your local UPS representative to obtain the most current shipping/packaging requirements for UPS. Use the following address for shipping specimens

**Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories
Rabies Laboratory
550 West 16th Street, Suite B
Indianapolis, IN 46202**

To contact the Rabies Lab by phone or fax:

317.921.5842 (8:15 - 4:45 M-F, except holidays)

317.233.1325 (after hours ISDH duty officer)

317.927.7804 FAX

REPORTING OF RESULTS

Positive rabies test results will be reported immediately by telephone to both the local health department officials and to the submitter of the specimen. Both positive and negative test results will be made available on LimsNet.

MAMMALS IN THE ORDER RODENTIA

Squirrels, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rats, or other animals that have a very low or non-incidence of rabies will not be tested unless there is a human bite or other exposure involved **and with prior approval** of the Veterinary Epidemiologist (317.233.7272) or ISDH Laboratory Director (317.921.5808).

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For questions concerning suspected rabies incidents involving possible human exposure, contact the ISDH Veterinary Epidemiologist, at 317.233.7272. For questions concerning suspected rabies incidents involving possible domestic animal exposure, contact the director of Companion Animal/Equine at the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, at 317.544.2387. For general laboratory questions, contact the ISDH Laboratories at 317.921.5500.