

Rabies Antigen, Non-Human

Test description	Necropsy of animal and DFA for the detection of rabies virus
Test use	To determine the presence or absence of rabies virus in an animal that has bitten or otherwise exposed a person to saliva, nervous tissue or cerebral spinal fluid
Test department	Virology Phone: (860) 920- 6662, FAX: (860) 920- 6661
Methodology	Direct Fluorescent antibody (DFA) microscopic examination
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday. Off hours testing involving high risk exposure requires pre-approval by Epidemiology and Emerging Infections (860-509-7994).
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raccoon, skunk, other wild carnivores (e.g., fox, coyote, or bobcat), or groundhog that has potentially exposed a person to rabies • Bat that has had direct contact with or been found in a room with a person • Animal head or brain of unvaccinated domestic animals. Submit only the heads of cats and dogs regardless of the size of the animal. <p>Refer to Instructions for Submitting Specimens for Rabies Testing on the reverse side of the Request for Rabies Examination form.</p>
Collection Kit/Container	Double-bag ONE specimen in leak-proof plastic bags and place in a rigid walled container so that no leakage or puncture will occur during transit.
Collection Instructions	Animals head must not be damaged and the entire head should be submitted as soon as possible
Specimen Handling & Transport	Specimens should be refrigerated and delivered to the laboratory as soon as possible. Specimens must be packaged in accordance with state and federal regulations ensuring that no puncture, breakage of leaking occurs during transit.
Unacceptable Conditions	Live animals are not accepted. Specimens with skull or brain crushed, mutilated, decomposed or exposed to excess heat Animals that have not bitten or otherwise exposed a person Livestock (cows, pigs, horses): arrangements for testing of livestock should be made with UCONN Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at (860) 486-3738
Requisition Form	Request for Rabies Examination requisition may be found at the Dr. Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory webpage located at, www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3122&q=396860 Place completed (print clearly) requisition in an envelope and attach to the outside of each specimen container being submitted for testing.
Required Information	Name, address, and phone number of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Name and address of owner Exposure information
Limitations	The following animals will NOT be tested without consultation with DPH: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small rodents (mice, rat, chipmunk, mole, rabbit) that have bitten a person or domestic animal. • Cats, dogs, and other domestic animals that are current on their rabies vaccination • Bats found in a home but not in a room where a person was present.
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions concerning human exposure, prophylaxis and submission of animals uncommon to rabies infection may be made to Epidemiology and Emerging Infections at (860) 509-7994. • All positive results are telephoned to the submitter and to the local health district.