



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING SPECIMENS FOR RABIES TESTING

Animals tested guide medical management of persons who have exposure (bite, saliva contact of mucus membrane or open wound, bat) to suspect rabid animals. The DPH and local health departments will assist persons exposed and responders who evaluate exposures to determine the need for animal testing. For additional information about rabies testing at the DPH Public Health Laboratory, please visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/dph/epidemiology-and-emerging-infections/rabies>.

Types of animals accepted for rabies examination:

1. Raccoons, skunks, wild carnivores (e.g., fox, coyote, bobcat) and groundhogs that have bitten a person.
2. Bats that have direct contact or are found in a room with a person who cannot communicate seeing it or knowing they may have been bitten (e.g., sleeping person, baby or young child, person with dementia, or someone under the influence of alcohol or drugs).
3. Unvaccinated cats and dogs that have bitten a person.

NOTE: The heads of animals that have bitten a person must not be damaged and should be submitted immediately.

### B. Submit for testing **ONLY** after consultation with the DPH or local health department:

1. Animals that have not bitten a person.
2. Small rodents (e.g., mice, rats, squirrels, chipmunks, moles) and rabbits that have bitten a person or domestic animal. These animals are rarely found to be rabid and rabies in these animals has not been detected in Connecticut.
3. Bats found in a home but not in a room with a person.

### C. Submit for testing **ONLY** if instructed to do so by an Animal Control Officer:

1. Cats, dogs, and other domestic animals that are current on their rabies vaccination and have bitten a person.
  - These animals should usually be observed in quarantine for 14 days.
  - Contact the Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division for questions concerning quarantine of domestic animals, (860) 713-2506.

**NEVER** submit live animals. Only submit heads of domestic animals. Arrangements for testing of livestock should be made with UCONN Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at (860) 486-3738.

### D. SUBMITTER

1. The authorized person who will be notified of the results and will provide consultation regarding the need for testing the animal (ACO, Environmental Conservation Police (ENCON) Officer, healthcare provider, local HD, NWCO, police officer, veterinarian, other). NOTE: NWCOs are not authorized persons to submit bats.
2. Local health department will be notified of results from animals submitted by unauthorized submitters (e.g., the public).

### REQUISITION FORM

A clearly printed, completed requisition form OL-97A **MUST** accompany each individual specimen submitted. The **submitter's phone number MUST** be included for notification of results. Make a copy of the completed OL-97A, and place each copy in an envelope to be used in specimen packaging. Keep a copy for your records if needed.

### PROPER SPECIMEN PACKAGING

**Double-bag ONE** specimen in leak-proof plastic bags and secure one copy of the OL-97A to the outside of the package. Place the double-bagged specimen on ice in a leak proof container and secure the second copy of the OL-97A to the outside of the container. Specimens must be appropriately packaged to prevent leakage and exposure to anyone handling the specimen. Deliver each specimen with completed OL-97A forms to the DPH laboratory as soon as possible. To avoid delays in testing, mailing specimens is discouraged.

### LABORATORY HOURS

The Virology Laboratory is staffed Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please bring specimens to the Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory located at 395 West Street in Rocky Hill. Security requires identification to proceed to the building. After entering the first gate, follow signs to Sample Receiving and Deliveries. Proceed to the first turn-off on the right and park. Walk to the loading dock and press the buzzer for admittance to the building. Staff will take custody of the specimen in the Sample Submission Room down the corridor on the right side. After hours, security will escort you to a walk-in cooler where the specimen with attached paperwork can be left. Routine testing is not conducted on weekends and holidays.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For questions concerning human exposure, prophylaxis, and submission of animals uncommon to rabies infection, contact the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program at (860) 509-7994 or your local health department.
- For questions concerning livestock and domestic animal exposures (e.g., biting, quarantine, vaccination), contact the Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division or the State Veterinarian at (860) 713-2506.
- For questions regarding submission of animals that do not satisfy criteria for testing at the DPH Laboratory, (e.g., animals that expose vaccinated domestic animals) contact the UCONN Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at (860) 486-3738.
- For questions concerning wildlife (unusual behavior, rabies, exposures to, etc.) contact the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division at (860) 424-3011. For emergencies call (860) 424-3333.
- For additional information or for reporting incidents of animals biting people or domestic animals, please contact your local Animal Control Officer.