



## VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM

Phone: (213) 989-7060 or (877) 747-2243

Fax (213) 481-2375 or (213) 482-2588



# PROCEDURE for SPECIMEN SUBMISSION for RABIES TESTING

Remember: healthy **domestic** animals that have bitten a human are not to be euthanized during the quarantine period. Gravely ill or injured domestic animals that have bitten a human may be euthanized during the quarantine period for humane reasons. In these cases the head of the animal must be submitted appropriately for rabies testing.

Specimens should be kept refrigerated. **DO NOT FREEZE!** Freezing damages the tissue and makes testing difficult. Only properly prepared specimens will be collected for testing.

1. Complete a Bite Report Form. If no person was bitten, write "None" in the "Person Bitten" section.
2. Spray the animal's body with flea spray to kill any fleas or ticks.
3. Sever the head from the body for all animals, except bats. Submit only the head for testing.
4. Wrap the specimen (animal's head) in newspaper or other absorbent paper, and then place the wrapped specimen in a plastic, leak proof bag. Place the specimen in a second plastic bag to prevent any leakage.
5. Place the double bagged specimen into an insulated outer container (eg. box with ice pack). Add packing material to box, if needed to fill up the interior.
6. Place a copy of a completed Bite Report Form on the outside of the container. If the animal did not bite a person, note in the Remarks area why the animal is being submitted for rabies testing (eg. Symptoms compatible with rabies).
7. After the specimen is prepared, fax a copy of the completed Bite Report Form to Veterinary Public Health at (213) 481-2375 or (213) 482-2588 and then call our office (213) 989-7060 to request transportation of the specimen to the Public Health Laboratory for testing.
8. Our office will need your clinic/shelter name, address, phone and fax number to ensure proper specimen collection and reporting of results.
9. Contact our office if you have any questions about the required procedures for submitting rabies specimens.