



Department of Health and Human Services  
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory  
221 State Street  
# 12 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012  
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832  
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

## RABIES SUBMISSIONS

### DIRECTIONS FOR THE COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF ANIMAL HEADS FOR EXAMINATION

#### SPECIMEN PREPARATION:

1. Live animals must **not** be submitted to the laboratory for examination
2. **No animal should be killed by clubbing or shooting in the head since intact brain is essential for testing**
3. The head must be removed from the body (except for small animals which measure 12 inches or less in length, exclusive of tail) and placed in a leak-proof container. All bats should be submitted whole. Any head that has sharp protuberances (shattered bone, quills, etc.) should be wrapped the in several layers of newspaper before placing in a plastic bag.
4. Specimens should be shipped within 24 hours of euthanasia. All specimens should be refrigerated before and during shipment. Frozen cold pack may be used to provide refrigeration during transport.
5. If commercial transportation to HETL is not available for more that 24 hours, the following procedures are recommended;
  - a) A private individual following instructions above may bring the specimen to HETL
6. A HETL Rabies Submission Form must be sent with each animal
7. DO NOT SEND specimens preserved in formalin (or any other type of preservative) or frozen specimens
8. If submission is made prior to 11:00 AM, results will be available that day.
9. Rabies testing is fee waived, however **there will be a \$150.00 up front fee** if testing is requested in situations that there was no human or animal contact or the ten day quarantine was not followed.

#### NOTE: Large animal submission, such as cattle or horse –

If the brain from large animals are submitted in lieu of the entire head, parts of the cerebellum, hippocampus and the brain stem. The most important sample is a **complete cross section of brain stem**. Specimens that do not include at least two of the three areas of the brain will be considered unsatisfactory due to a lack of sufficient material.

#### SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS: \*\*Ship by the most rapid method available\*\*

1. A cardboard box with a leak-proof plastic bag liner
2. Clear container or clear plastic bag for bat submissions
3. Re-freezable cold packs. DO NOT PACK WITH WET ICE
4. Insulation material ( i.e. Styrofoam, etc) and an outer plastic bag
5. Specimens should be sent by courier, bused or hand carried to  
HETL – Rabies  
221 State Street Station 12  
Augusta, Maine 04333
6. After hour submissions must be received and logged in by Capital Security. Tel: 207-287-4154
7. Notify HETL prior to shipping specimen
8. Shipping charges are the responsibility of the sender

*Caring..Responsive..Well-Managed..We are DHHS*