



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Public Health Laboratory
Rabies Testing Body Return
Instructions for Owners



1. Deceased animals (specimens) that may be rabid are submitted by various entities, including veterinary hospitals, the public, and Partner Submitters (i.e., facilities who work closely with County of San Diego (COSD) Public Health Laboratory (PHL) to comply with the California Code of Regulations, Title 17, §2606) to the PHL for brain extraction and rabies testing.
2. For a nominal fee, the Public Health Laboratory can return the body of an animal that tests negative for rabies to the owner via a Designated Professional Animal Agency (veterinary clinic, pet cremation service, etc.) within 28 calendar days of final results. Owners are NOT allowed to pick up a body. Please note that only bodies under 40 pounds can be returned.
3. If a body is to be returned, please complete the following:
 - a. Complete all fields in form below. Any incomplete fields may prolong or eliminate our ability to return a body.
 - b. Include a check or money order for \$25 made payable to "County of San Diego." Please write in the memo section of the payment the first and last name of the animal to be returned.
 - c. Mail completed form and payment to

Public Health Laboratory
5570 Overland Drive, Ste. 103
San Diego, CA 92123

4. Once final results are negative, PHL staff will call the Designated Professional Animal Agency for body collection. A total of 4 weekly calls will be performed. If the body has not been collected after 28 days from the negative final result, the body will be disposed of, and the payment will be voided.
5. Unless specifically designated to be returned, bodies will be disposed of immediately after testing process begins.

Post-Rabies Testing Body Return Form

Date: _____

Pet Name: _____

Owner First and Last Name: _____

Owner Contact Phone Number: _____

Designated Professional Animal Agency: _____

Designated Professional Animal Agency Contact Phone Number: _____