COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

San Diego County Public Health Laboratory Rabies Requisition

SPACE RESERVED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LAB BATCH STICKER

SUBMIT ANIMAL FOR BRAIN REMOVAL AND LABORATORY TESTING TO:
San Diego County Public Health Laboratory
5540 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: (858) 325-6400
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
For drop-off instructions, see page 2 for more information

Please Fill Out Form Completely

☐ **SAVE ANIMAL BODY**

Place SAVE BODY Sticker Here

☐ **Do NOT Save Body**

****Requires $25 fee** and only available for animals weighing less than 40 lbs. Animal remains may only be released to a pet cemetery or veterinary facility for private burial or cremation. Animal remains will be held for no more than 28 calendar days after submission before being disposed.
*****Fee is subject to change*

REASON FOR ANIMAL BEING SUBMITTED: ☐ Bite ☐ Other (specify below)

DATE:

Submitter Information

☐ San Diego County Department of Animal Services
☐ Carlsbad ☐ Santee
☐ San Diego Humane Society
☐ San Diego ☐ Oceanside ☐ Escondido
☐ El Cajon ☐ Project Wildlife
☐ San Diego Zoo ☐ San Diego Zoo Safari Park
☐ Camp Pendleton Animal Shelter
☐ Chula Vista Animal Care Facility
☐ Coronado Animal Services
☐ National City Animal Control
☐ Epidemiology Unit

Other Submitter
If your facility is not listed on the left, please enter information below

Name/Facility:
Address:
Point of Contact:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:
Epi Contact: Epi Phone:

Submitted Animal Information

Animal Type:
☐ Bat ☐ Cat ☐ Dog
☐ Other (specify below)
_____

Animal's Name: Breed: Age: Color:
Spayed/Neutered: ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Unknown
☐ Deceased OR ☐ Euthanized Date Deceased:

Body Part Submitted:
☐ Body
☐ Head
☐ Brain

Veterinarian (if applicable): Phone: Fax:
Briefly describe event (include address/location) or reason for testing:

DAS/Submitter ID:

Event Zip Code: _____ Found in public place: ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown

Note: Submitted Animal will also be tested by Public Health for additional communicable diseases, when appropriate.

Human and/or Animal Exposure Information (if applicable)

Human Exposure: ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown Exposure Date: Contact with Saliva: ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unknown

Name of Person Exposed: Phone #: Alt Phone #:

If a pet was exposed, enter the following: Species Exposed:

Pet Owner's Name: Pet's Name: Phone #:

Internal Use Only

Brain Tissue Collection Date:

Brain Condition:
☐ Satisfactory ☐ Unsatisfactory ☐ Frozen-Satisfactory

Initials:

Effective 05/01/2025

Rabies Testing Instructions

The local health officer or designee [local animal control agency] shall be notified when any person is bitten by a mammal (Title 17, California Code of Regulations, §2606). A directory of local animal control agencies is available at http://www.sddac.com (scroll down to bottom of page and click 'Animal Control Agencies by Zip Codes').

Animals Appropriate for Rabies Testing

- Questions about animals appropriate for rabies testing may be directed to the Epidemiology Unit at 619-692-8499, Mon-Fri 8:00 am-5:00 pm. On evenings, weekends, and County-observed holidays, call 858-565-5255 and ask for the Epidemiology Unit Duty Officer.
- Only mammals are susceptible to rabies.
- Bats and other wildlife susceptible to rabies (e.g., skunks, raccoons, foxes, or other wild carnivores) that have bitten or otherwise potentially exposed a human or domestic mammal to rabies should be submitted for testing directly to the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory after first consulting the Epidemiology Unit (see above) as soon as possible.
- Mammals that have bitten or potentially exposed a human or domestic mammal to rabies and that exhibit signs of rabies should be promptly submitted for testing, unless the biting animal is at low risk for rabies.

Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets

- Bites from domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets must be reported to your local animal control agency (see above).
- If the biting animal is healthy, your local animal control agency will direct its quarantine and daily observation for 10 days following the exposure. Home quarantine is a preferable option if possible. Other options for quarantine are at an approved veterinary facility, boarding facility, or shelter.
- Gravely ill or terminally injured domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets that have bitten or otherwise potentially exposed a human to rabies may be euthanized as a humane alternative to 10-day observation. The brain of a domestic dog, cat, or ferret that is euthanized or dies prior to completion of the 10-day observation period must be tested for rabies unless an exception is specifically authorized by the County of San Diego Public Health Services. Contact the Epidemiology Unit (see above) for guidance and further information.

Rabies Testing

- If rabies testing is indicated, the animal must first be euthanized and refrigerated (not frozen) and then submitted to the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) at 5540 Overland Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. The entire carcass will be accepted with the exception of very large animals (e.g., horses). Call SDPHL with any additional questions at 858-325-6400, Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- Directions to SDPHL: From Overland Avenue, go straight through the main gated entrance, and veer right. Drive to the end of the road and turn left. Park in the small lot on the left (east side of Building 5540). Enter through the door on the left marked "Specimen Receiving," and you will be greeted at the window on your right.
- The bodies of animals that test negative for rabies and that weigh less than 40 lbs. may be released to a veterinarian or professional animal burial or crematory service for a nominal fee ($25 payable to County of San Diego at time of submission by check or money order only – write name of animal on memo line of payment). There is no charge for rabies testing. The carcasses of animals that test positive for rabies will be disposed of in accordance with standard laboratory procedures for biohazardous waste.
- Animals tested for rabies may also be tested for other communicable diseases (e.g. bird flu) when deemed appropriate by Public Health.