

Rabies Testing

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>.

Animals Appropriate for Rabies Testing

- Only mammals are susceptible to rabies.
- Mammals that are at **high risk for rabies** (e.g., bats, 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 as soon as possible.
- Mammals under the care of an animal health professional that have bitten or otherwise 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 (see below).
- Mammals at low risk for rabies will not be tested unless approved by the Epidemiology Program. These include small rodents (e.g., rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, squirrels, gophers, chipmunks, voles) and lagomorphs (e.g., rabbits, hares, and pikas).
- Questions about animals appropriate for rabies testing may be directed to the Epidemiology Program at 619-692-8499, Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00. On evenings, weekends, and County-observed holidays, call 858-565-5255 and ask for the Epidemiology Program Duty Officer.

Domestic Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets

- Bites from domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets must be reported to your local animal control agency.
 - **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. A directory of local animal control agencies is available at <http://www.sddac.com>.
 - **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 public health officer or his/her designee.

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 Vector Disease and Diagnostic Laboratory (VDDL) for brain extraction. With the exception of very large animals (e.g., horses), the entire carcass will be accepted. VDDL is located at 5570 Overland Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00. Phone: 858-694-2888.
- Bats that have potentially exposed a human or domestic mammal to rabies may be submitted directly to the Public Health Laboratory after first consulting the Epidemiology Program (619-692-8499).
- The carcasses 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. 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.

RABIES SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM

PHL Accession #

County of San Diego Vector Disease and Diagnostic Laboratory
5570 Overland Avenue, Suite 102
San Diego, CA 92123
Phone: (858) 694-2888
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM IN ITS ENTIRETY AND CHECK FOR ACCURACY

Today's Date:

**SAVE
BODY**

Requires \$20 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
**Fee is subject to change*

Animal Information

Dog	Cat	Animal's Name:		Breed:
Bat		Age:	Color:	Sex: M F Unknown
Bat Species, if known:		Spayed/Neutered: Y N Unknown		Rabies Vaccine Up-to-Date: Y N Unknown
Other	If "Other" specify:			

If bat, address/location where initially found:

Circle one: Deceased or Euthanized Date Deceased: Veterinarian:

Submitter Information

Department of Animal Services: NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH	OTHER (Please complete information below and provide Animal ID# at bottom)		
	Name/Facility:		
	Address:		
	Phone #:	Fax #:	
	Email:		

Human / Animal ExposureHuman Exposure: Y N Unknown Date of Exposure:
If exposed, was victim bitten or was there contact with animal's saliva? Y N Unknown

Name of Victim:

Victim Phone #: Alt Phone #:

If another pet was exposed, enter species and owner information. Species Exposed:

Pet Owner's Name: Phone #:

Other

Animal ID#s (these #s will appear on lab result as a reference)		Brain Tissue Collection Date:	
DAS/Submitter (A#):	VCP-VDDL (R#):	Brain Condition: Initials: SAT UNSAT	
Epi (WebCMR#):	Epi Investigator:		

Notes:

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY *Brett Austin, Director*

3851 Rosecrans Street, Suite 716, San Diego CA 92110 Phone: (619) 692-8500 Fax: (619) 692-8558