

PREPARING A SPECIMEN FOR RABIES TESTING

Note: Healthy animals may not be euthanized during the quarantine period.

Specimens that are inappropriately packaged or missing the appropriate reporting form will be rejected from the Public Health Lab. It will be the responsibility of the veterinary clinic to pick up the specimen and resubmit it immediately.

STEP 1 Dogs/cats/wildlife must be decapitated, except bats

- Do not decapitate a bat! Submit it as a whole body.

STEP 2 Apply flea/tick spray to the specimen

STEP 3 Specimen must be wrapped in absorbent paper and double-bagged

- Only one specimen per bag (do not place more than one bat in a bag)
- The specimen and blood should not be visible through the bag
- Place into a box or an opaque container

STEP 4 Securely affix appropriate reporting form to the specimen container

- Impound cards or cage cards are not acceptable
- Do not leave paperwork resting on top or beneath a specimen

STEP 5 Place specimen into the fridge (do not freeze)

- Do not place specimens next to food/vaccines
- Check the fridge temperature to ensure that it is working (unrefrigerated/decomposed specimens may be untestable)

STEP 6 Email/fax the reporting form to VPH (Note ‘Pick up’ in the top corner)

STEP 7 Call VPH for pick-up

- If you notice a specimen in the fridge for a few days, please call again for pick-up
- **Phone – 213-288-7060**
- **Email – vet@ph.lacounty.gov**
- **Fax – 213-481-2375**

