

RABIES TEST PROCEDURE

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories
Alabama Department of Public Health

SUBMITTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. PLEASE CALL THE LABORATORY (see numbers below) MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY TO REPORT THAT YOU WILL SHIP A SPECIMEN AND BY WHAT CARRIER. If emergency testing is needed on the weekend or holiday, a medical doctor must call the State Public Health Veterinarian.

Laboratory:

Montgomery
(334) 260-3400

Mobile
(251) 344-6049

2. Without damaging the brain stem, have the head of animals weighing over 15lbs., or over 20" in length removed. The State Veterinary Laboratory will not accept specimens over 15 lbs. or 20" long. Heads from farm animals may be removed at a State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Note: Live animals will not be accepted.
3. Place the specimen in a water-tight container, such as a clean paint can or tough plastic bag, and seal tightly so there are no leaks. Place this container in a larger water-tight container, such as a Styrofoam chest, and if shipping, add enough cold packs to ensure the specimen will remain cold until it is received at the lab. If the specimen is very bloody, add absorbent material (newspaper or paper towels) around the head. Spray with insecticide if pests are present. (Fleas, Ticks, Ants, Maggots, etc.)
4. Complete the SUBMITTER'S INFORMATION section of the Rabies Test Report form and place it in a separate plastic bag, seal tightly, and place inside the second container. Label the outside of the shipping container "RABIES SPECIMEN". NOTE: (1) Live animals will not be accepted. (2) If more than one specimen is being shipped in the same container, each specimen must be accompanied by its own request form, and clearly labeled to state which form goes with which specimen.
5. Immediately ship the specimen to the State Health Laboratory in your designated area (see back of form), or take to the State Health Laboratory of your choice. Specimens may be shipped by most commercial couriers. DO NOT SEND BY U.S. MAIL.