

**PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR RABIES PROGRAM TEAM AND ALL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS**

## **Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request**

### **CFIA Requirements for Rabies FAT Testing**

The CFIA requires a minimum WHO Category II exposure for samples being sent to their laboratory for FAT testing.

Below is the World Health Organization's definition for each exposure category:

1. **Category I**
    - Touched or feeding animals, licks on intact skin, contact of intact skin with secretions of excretions of rabid animal
  2. **Category II**
    - Nibbling of uncovered skin, minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding
  3. **Category III**
    - Single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches, licks on broken skin, contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks and exposure to bats
- *Handling of an animal alone does not meet the criteria for rabies testing. A bite, scratch or saliva contact with open wound or mucous membrane would be situations in which the animal would be tested.*

## **Viable Tissue**

Make sure there is viable tissue for testing. The following are indicators that the specimen will likely return a result of "unfit" for testing:

1. Desiccated
2. Bug infested (e.g. maggots)
3. Has major trauma to the head

## **Common Missed Information**

When filling out the online submission form please complete all required fields. The information requested is required for the CFIA and shipping forms that accompany the specimen. The information requested also helps the RRP staff determine the proper shipping requirements under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations.

The following is a list of the more common pieces of information missing on the Rabies Specimen Collection Request Forms:

1. GPS co-ordinates of where the animal was found/from
2. Initials of the victim
3. Collection location address and hours of operation (consult the collection locations website INSTEAD of the google directory as it is often wrong)

*If you are unsure what is required please call or email the OAVT RRP for assistance.*

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## **Spring is Here, Stock Up on Supplies**

We are fast approaching the busiest time of year for specimen collections; therefore, it is important that you place your order for shipping supplies soon. The instructions on how to order shipping supplies can be found on the [RRP Public Health Portal](#). RVTs require bags, boxes and ice packs for every collection. Examples of shipping supplies needed for:

### **A Small Animal:**

1. 4 small clear plastic bags (9" X 12")
2. 1 small corrugated cardboard box (10" X 10" X 10")
3. 1 rigid ice pack (more when the temperatures are great than 30 °C)

### **A Large Animal:**

1. 3 large clear plastic bags (15" X 15")
2. 1 small clear plastic bag (9" X 12")
3. 1 large corrugated cardboard box (16" X 16" X 16")
4. 2 rigid ice packs (more when the temperatures are great than 30 °C)



### **MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario**

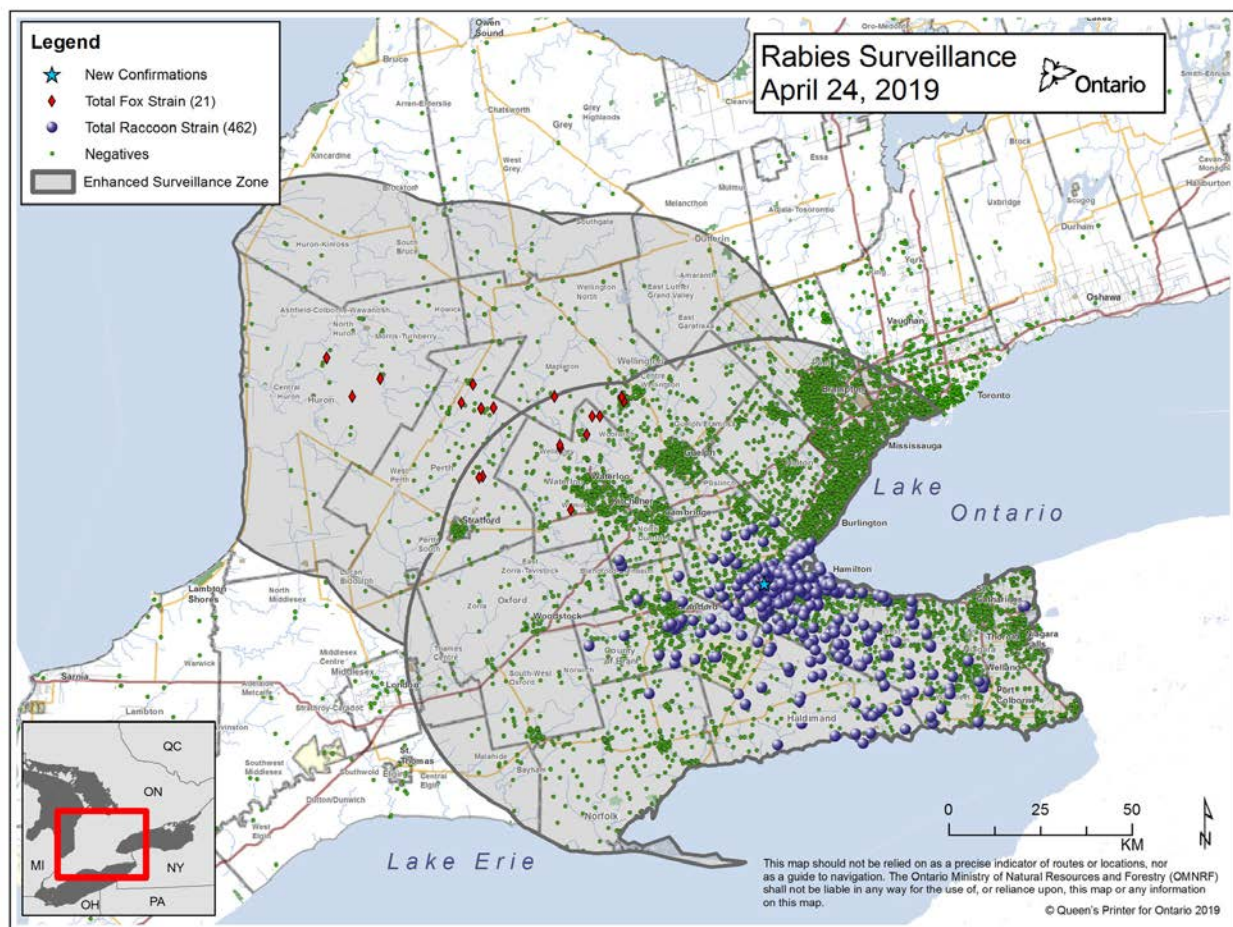
The MNRF is reporting on their results of wildlife testing (with no human/animal exposure), surveillance and bait drops. The MNRF does not test bats. As of **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019** the MNRF is reporting a total of **462** cases of raccoon strain and **21** cases of fox strain rabies in Ontario since the outbreak began in December 2015.

The **raccoon strain** cases are distributed among the following Public Health Units:

- Hamilton: 214 raccoons, 107 skunks, 1 fox, 2 cats
- Haldimand-Norfolk: 30 raccoons, 2 skunks, 1 llama
- Niagara: 38 raccoons, 11 skunks, 1 dog
- Brant: 26 raccoons, 1 skunk
- Halton: 17 raccoons, 9 skunks
- Waterloo: 2 skunks

The **fox strain** cases are distributed among the following Public Health Units:

- Perth: 6 cows, 2 skunks
- Huron: 1 cow, 3 skunks
- Waterloo: 1 fox, 5 skunks
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: 3 skunk



In 2019, the MNR has tested just over 1600 animals. Below are the positive rabies results as of

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

The **raccoon strain** cases are distributed among the following Public Health Units:

- Brant: 1 raccoon
- Haldimand-Norfolk: 1 raccoon
- Hamilton: 4 raccoons, 5 skunk
- Niagara: 1 dog
- Waterloo: 1 skunk

There have been no positive **fox strain** rabies cases reported in 2019.

For more information on rabies you can visit the following sites:

1. [OMNRF: Rabies in Wildlife](#)
2. [OMAFRA: Rabies in Ontario](#)
3. [OAVT RRP Rabies Public Portal](#)
4. [OAVT RRP Rabies Resources](#)



## **CFIA Report on Rabies in Canada**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has a website with statistics on all rabies cases in Canada dating back to 1998. They update their website on the 28th day of each month.

Year to date there has been a total of **306** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **209** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **24** were positive for rabies, including **13** that were from Ontario.

For more information on rabies in Canada, please visit the [CFIA website](#).

## **Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinics**

If you have been notified of a Rabies Vaccine Clinic in your area

and would like to have it listed on the [RRP Rabies Vaccine Clinic Listing](#) webpage, please [email](#) us the following information:

1. Location name
2. Date and time
3. Cost and method of payment accepted
4. Any special instructions (including PHU area)
5. A poster (PDF or JPEG)

*All of the rabies vaccine clinics that are posted on the RRP Rabies Vaccine Clinic Listing webpage are also posted on our RRP Rabies Vaccine Clinic Listing [Facebook page](#).*

The "Purrpup" isn't real, but rabies is. Protect your family and pets. Stay away from raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats.



**Low Cost Rabies Vaccines**

**\$25** each, cash only

**When:** Saturday April 27, 2019  
Time 9 am – 1 pm

**Where:** 345 Jones Rd, Stoney Creek



For assistance with transportation to clinic please contact [jane.murrell@hamilton.ca](mailto:jane.murrell@hamilton.ca)

**Dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier Cats must be in a carrier**

In partnership with Hamilton Animal Services and Hamilton's Local Vet Community



[hamilton.ca/rabies](http://hamilton.ca/rabies)

**ARCHIVED ISSUES OF THE RABIES INSIDER CAN BE FOUND ON THE RRP WEBSITE IN THE [PUBLIC HEALTH PORTAL](#).**



[www.oavtrrp.org](http://www.oavtrrp.org)

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