

## The Rabies Insider



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

## Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request

### Incomplete Forms Cause Delays

The information requested on the Specimen Collection Form is required for the RRP office staff to complete the necessary paperwork that must ship with the specimen. If there is incomplete or missing information it will delay the dispatching of an RVT.

#### Critical Information Required:

1. GPS coordinates - if it is a stray animal use the coordinates for where the animal was found (property or main intersection)
2. Victim initials
3. Correct postal code of collection location - Google search default postal codes are often incorrect, please use either the location's website or Canada Post's [postal code search tool](#)
4. Contact name and number for results

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#### PHU Request for Specimen Collection

To request an animal specimen collection for rabies testing please [complete and submit one form per animal](#).

If a required field is not applicable to your case please enter N/A.

If you realize after you have submitted your form that there was an error entered please [do not resubmit online](#). Instead email [rsp@oavt.org](mailto:rsp@oavt.org) with the corrections needed.

If you require a copy of this completed submission form, print this page before clicking submit.

Request for specimen collection should not occur until the PHU has [confirmation that the animal is deceased and has arrived at the collection location](#).

If a collection is occurring at a residence the PHU should ensure the following:

1. There is an area out of public view for the collection to take place
2. The homeowner approves of the collection occurring on their property
3. The homeowner understands the collection procedure
4. The homeowner understands it is their responsibility to dispose of the remains afterwards
5. The homeowner has a fridge or freezer where the animal can be stored until collection occurs when outdoor temperatures exceed five degrees celsius.

[If this criteria can't be met the animal should be transported to a veterinary hospital or animal shelter prior to submission request.](#)

All items indicated below [must](#) be provided by the health unit at the time of the request in order for the OAVT to:

1. Fill out the necessary laboratory/shipping paperwork
2. Dispatch a RVT to do the collection



## Shipping Specimens Through Purolator

Specimen collections are scheduled based on the hours of operation of the collection location and the local Purolator cut off times for overnight shipping.

Purolator has a number of shipping centres and shipping agents throughout the province. The cut off times vary significantly between each location.

**Specimens do not ship on Fridays or weekends due to the CFIA laboratory hours of operation and Purolator's service schedule.**

If a Request for Collection is received on Thursday the RRP will do its best to have it collected prior to the Purolator cut off time. If it is not possible to hit the cut off time then the RVT has two options:

1. The sample can be collected and stored frozen until it can be dropped off at Purolator on Monday
2. The sample collection will be scheduled for Monday

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## What You Should Know About Rabies Specimen Collections at a Private Residence

Due to the nature of rabies testing, the following criteria must be met in order for a specimen to be collected at a private residence:

1. The animal must be deceased
2. The animal owner must have a safe place where the procedure (decapitation/brain removal) can occur if the animal is greater than 1lb
  - There must be an area to perform the collection that is **out of public view** (i.e. not appropriate in most

- residential areas)
3. The animal owner is responsible for the disposal of the remains after the collection has been completed. Method of disposal will depend on municipal regulations.

If any of the above criteria cannot be met then we recommend the animal be transferred to a:

1. Veterinary hospital
2. Animal Shelter/Humane Society
3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility



## Spring is Here, Stock Up on Supplies

The Public Health Units are required to order, store and distribute rabies specimen shipping supplies to RVTs participating in the OAVT Rabies Response Program. 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 2 sizes of bags and boxes and ice packs.

### Example of shipping supplies needed for:

A Small Animal:

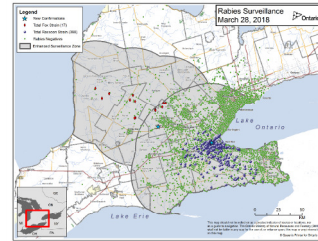
- 4 small clear plastic bags (9" x 12")
- 1 small corrugated double wall cardboard box (10" x 10" x 10")
- 1 rigid ice pack (more when temperatures are greater than 30 °C)

A Large Animal:

- 3 large clear plastic bags (15" x 30")
- 1 small clear plastic bag (9" x 12")
- 1 large corrugated double wall cardboard box (16" x 16" x 16")
- 2 rigid ice packs (more when temperatures are great than 30 °C)

## MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario

The MNRF is reporting on their results of testing, surveillance and bait drops. As of March 28th, 2018 the MNRF is reporting a total of **398 cases of raccoon strain** and **17 cases of fox strain** rabies in Ontario since the outbreak began in December 2015.



Larger image here

In 2018, the MNRF has tested over 500 animals.

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

- Hamilton: 188 raccoons , 98 skunks, 1 fox, 2 cats
- Haldimand-Norfolk: 25 raccoons, 2 skunks, 1 llama
- Niagara: 30 raccoons, 4 skunks
- Brant: 20 raccoons, 1 skunk
- Halton: 17 raccoons, 9 skunks

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

- Perth: 5 cows, 2 skunks
- Huron: 1 cow, 3 skunks
- Waterloo: 1 fox, 5 skunks

The MNRF has also released their most recent issue of the [Rabies Reporter](#) (January -June 2017) and the [3rd quarter tables and maps](#) (July-September 2017).

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 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 **322** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **189** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **25** were positive for rabies, including **13** that were from Ontario.

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

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**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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