



CWHC Submissions

We wanted to remind all Public Health Inspectors of the partnership that has been formed between the MOHLTC, RRP and CWHC to increase the surveillance of rabies in Ontario.

It is important that you remember what the criteria are for these samples:

1. There has been **NO** contact with a human or domestic animal (this includes livestock).
2. The animal being tested is a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, bat or **feral** cat.
3. If you are within the MNRF enhanced surveillance zone then you must contact them first to see if they would like to test it. If they decline testing then it can be put through the CWHC program provided they meet the above criteria. Please note: the MNRF does not test bats or feral cats.

It is important that you confirm there has been NO human or domestic animal exposure prior to submitting a request for collection.

For more information on the partnership with the CWHC and to review the submission form please visit the [Public Health Unit Portal](#).



Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request

1. What does it mean when we ask "Were there any other domestic animals (dogs, cats, livestock) exposed to the animal being tested?" - The CFIA requires the PHUs to report if there was another domestic animal exposed/potentially exposed to the animal being tested. This can include other domestic animals living in the

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 rp@oavt.org with the corrections needed.

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

Requests 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

home or on property. It also includes livestock (cows, goats, pigs, horses, etc.). There is an option to select "Suspected" exposure if the owner has not witnessed direct contact between the animals.

2. Do not rely on a google search for the collection location information. Instead, go directly to the location's website. Below are some examples of why a google search is not reliable:
 - a) More often than not the postal code listed is incorrect. Please [click here](#) for an example.
 - b) Some business' have multiple facilities but only 1 location appears in google as that is the registered business address.
 - c) The hours of operation are incorrect. Especially at animal shelters where staff are working even though the facility is not open to the public. These extended hours are beneficial to the RRP as it gives the RVTs more flexibility for collection times.
3. The new online submission form is not compatible with outdated web browsers (i.e. Internet Explorer 10 or lower). It is compatible with Firefox, Chrome, Safari, or Internet Explorer **11 or higher**.
4. After you hit the green submit button scroll to the top of your screen and make sure that the following message appears: **Thank you for your submission**. If you do not see this message it means that your request did not go through. Before re-submitting your request, double check that all required fields have been filled in and that the web browser you are using is compatible with the form.



Public Health Units

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What Resources Are Available to PHI's?

The RRP has created a web page dedicated to information and resources for Public Health Inspectors. It is called the PHU portal and can be found at www.oavtrrp.org.

Listed below are some (but definitely not all) of the many great resources available to all PHIs:

1. [Euthanasia of Specimens for Rabies Testing](#)
2. [Humane Euthanasia of Bats Prior to Rabies Testing](#)

3. [Rabies Collection Submission Request Process-Non Human/Animal Exposures](#)
4. [Provided Rabies Specimen Shipping Supplies Ordering Info](#)
5. [Post Collection Info Sheet for Animal/Property Owners](#)
6. [Rabies Resources](#)

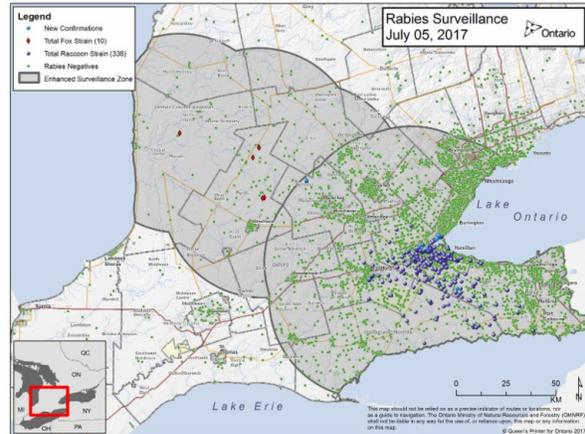
MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario

The MNRF is reporting on their results of testing, surveillance and bait drops. As of July 5th, 2017 the MNRF has reported a total of **338 cases of raccoon strain** and **10 cases of arctic fox strain** rabies in Ontario since the December 2015 outbreak began. They have tested >6500 animals and have dropped >1.8 million baits since April 2016.

Raccoon strain has been found in Brant, Haldimand, Halton, Hamilton, and Niagara. The arctic fox strain has been found in Huron, Perth and Waterloo.

For more information you can visit the following sites:

1. [OMNRF: Rabies In Wildlife](#)
2. [OMAFRA: Rabies in Ontario](#)



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.

At the end of May, 2017 there was a total of **935** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **586** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **98** were positive for rabies, including **64** that were from Ontario.

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

Please share this newsletter with your Rabies Program team.

The OAVT Public Health Rabies Response Program

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