

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

Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request

For rabies specimen collections that have human exposure:

- When submitting multiple animals from the same litter/location/family you can no longer send in one form with a note that there are multiple animals. Every animal submitted to the CFIA must have a unique Provincial Specimen ID number that is auto generated when a submission request is entered. Due to the auto generated ID number, an online form must be completed for each animal.
- For the question "Reason for Euthanasia" the answer "Suspect Rabies" should only be checked if a veterinarian is concerned the animal has rabies or if the animal is exhibiting neurological signs consistent with rabies (i.e. it is believed to actually contain rabies virus). It should not be chosen if there is no particular reason to believe that an animal specimen contains rabies virus, but instead is being submitted for testing as a precaution (i.e. confirm it is neagative).
- Animal clinic collection locations are often calling the OAVT RRP to follow up for the results of the rabies test. The OAVT RRP only releases test results to Public Health Units. It would be helpful for PHIs to inform the collection location if/when you will get back to them with results when informing them of the need for testing.
- Recently we have had an increase in PHIs submitting a request using the old "Fillable Word Document" which has not been accepted since October, 2016. Please ensure all PHIs are familiar with the [online submission form](#) to avoid delays in dispatching an RVT.

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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 rrp@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

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. Those that do will be declined for testing through this partnership. Instead, cases involving human exposures should be submitted to the OAVT RRP through the normal [online form](#) process. Animal owners should be advised to have their veterinarian call OMAFRA's AICC 1-877-424-1300 if domestic animal exposure has occurred.

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

Please note: It is expected that the results for these tests will normally return within approximately 1 month. Due to unforeseen circumstances there has been a longer delay for cases submitted from July onwards. We expect this to be temporary and appreciate your patience while awaiting these results.

Euthanasia of Rabies Specimens

Please ensure the animal has been euthanized and is at the collection location prior to sending in the submission request.

If you want to send a rabies specimen submission request form to the OAVT



RRP prior to the euthanasia of the specimen, due to convenience of access to the online form, you can **BUT** please make sure to note on the form that the animal is not ready for collection and that you will follow up with the OAVT RRP by email or phone once it is. You must contact the RRP either by email or phone to let us know when you have confirmation that the animal is ready for collection.

Please note: To maintain the efficiency of the program we will not start working on finding an RVT until we have confirmation that the animal is deceased and at the collection location.

MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario

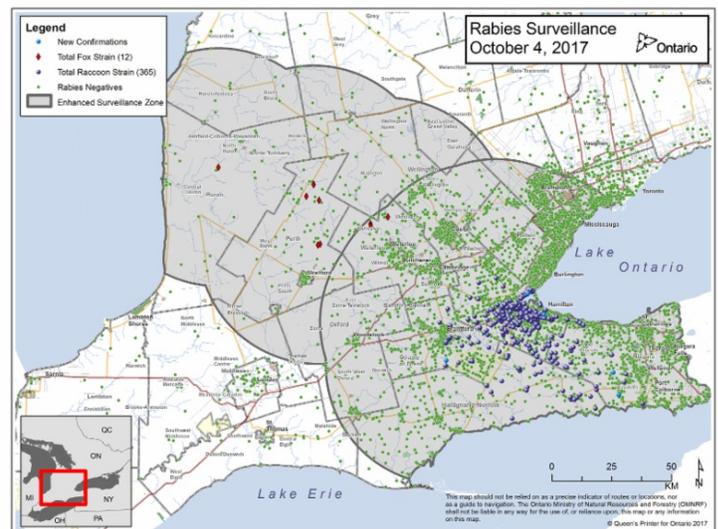
The MNRF is reporting on their results of testing, surveillance and bait drops. As of **October 4th, 2017** the MNRF has reported a total of **365 cases of raccoon strain** and **12 cases of arctic fox strain** rabies in Ontario since the December 2015 outbreak began.

In 2017 the MNRF has tested over 3000 animals and dropped over 1 million baits.

Raccoon strain has been found in Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk, 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](#)





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Canadian Food Inspection
Agency



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 August, 2017 there was a total of **2088** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **1245** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **170** were positive for rabies, including **107** that were from Ontario.

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

The OAVT Public Health Rabies Response Program

www.oavtrp.org

107-100 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 5L3

CONTACT US