



# OAVT Public Health Rabies Response Program

## Tips For Large Animal Hospitals

### RVTs Helping In The Community

Since January 2015 the OAVT RRP has been recruiting RVTs to provide this paid service to 29 Public Health Units across Ontario.

Becoming an OAVT RRP Team member allows RVTs to contribute to keeping their local communities safe while showcasing their unique skills as RVTs.

**Interested?** Contact us:

**Phone: 1-844-872-2437**

**Email: [rrp@oavt.org](mailto:rrp@oavt.org)**

**Or visit us online at:**  
**[www.oavtrrp.org](http://www.oavtrrp.org)**

### What We Do!

The OAVT Public Health Rabies Response Program (RRP) is a joint partnership between the OAVT and the Ministry of Health (MOH). The RRP provides the service of specimen collection and shipping for potential rabies exposures between animals and people.

### How Your Large Animal Hospital Can Help:

Our RVTs are collecting samples from veterinary hospitals, shelters, wildlife rehabilitation centers, private residences, farms and zoos. The following are a few tips for you that will help improve the efficiency and accuracy of our program:

1. If on the farm, once the animal has been confirmed deceased place it in sternal recumbancy, if possible. If not, lateral recumbancy can be used.
2. When possible, store the animal in a cool, dry location that cannot be accessed by scavengers. In the spring and summer months when outside temperatures are above 5°C pack the head with icepacks to preserve the specimen.
3. The RRP will call the farm owner to confirm the name of the RVT performing the collection and the date and time the RVT will be arriving.

**Note:** If the animal's head has been brought back to your hospital it can be stored in your fridge or freezer. The RRP staff will call you to make arrangements for collection.

4. Once the RVT has removed the head/brain, the remaining body can be cremated (**Please label the bag as "suspect rabies patient" so the crematorium staff can ensure proper biosecurity measures are followed**) or buried following municipal guidelines. **Animals sent for deadstock must wait for a rabies negative result** from the Public Health Unit before proceeding.

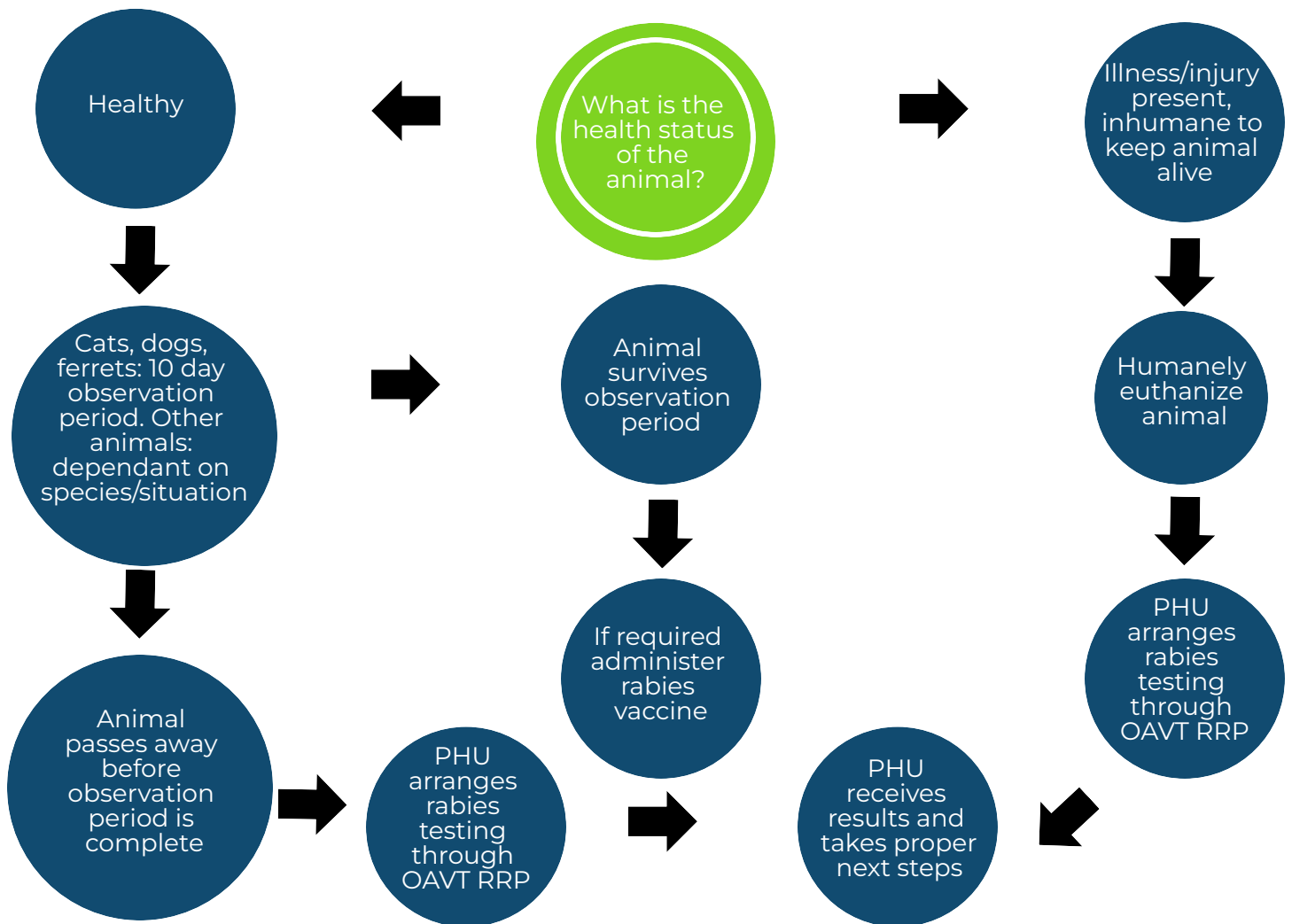
**Note:** Once the specimen has been sent for testing the specimen can't be returned from the lab.

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



Do you know a person who has been bitten/scratched by an animal?  
**YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT IMMEDIATELY!**

What happens after you call Public Health?  
Public Health will complete an investigation and then...



## HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION ACT

A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning either or both of the following shall, as soon as possible, notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer of health with the information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person:

1. Any bite from a mammal.
2. Any contact with a mammal that is conducive to the potential transmission of rabies to persons.

R.R.O. 1990, Reg 557, s. 2 (1); O Reg. 501/17, s. 1.

*This infographic is based on information provided in the MOH's Guidance Document for the Management of Suspected Rabies Exposures and reflects situations pertaining to human exposure. Situations of exposures involving domestic animals, that do not involve human exposure, should be directed to the animal owner's veterinarian. Veterinarians seeking additional guidance in these cases can contact OMAFA via the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 877-424-1300.*