

# Rabies Specimen Packaging Procedure

- **NOTE: Only veterinarians or qualified animal control officers should perform animal decapitation. Take care when severing the animal head; leave 2 cervical vertebrae attached. For bats, send entire animal. Do not damage the brain. Keep refrigerated. Do not freeze (delays testing); but if already frozen keep and ship frozen (freeze-thaw cycles can cause specimens to be unsatisfactory for testing). Ship promptly. NO LIVE ANIMALS! The shipping instructions below meet US DOT regulations.**

## 1. Preparation

- Wrap head in 2 plastic bags, sealing individually; one inside the other ("double bag"). Place whole bat in specimen cup.
- Place wrapped head (or bat in cup) in puncture-proof/leak-proof container provided by PHL ("secondary container") with absorbent.
- Apply Biohazard label to outside of secondary container.



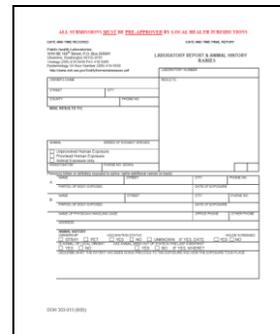
## 2. Packaging

- Place properly sealed and Biohazard labeled secondary container into outer box provided by PHL with 'DOH Approved Facility' label on it.
- Secondary containers and outer boxes MUST be from same manufacturer. Do not swap contents between different boxes.
- Pack with frozen chemical ice packs around secondary container.



## 3. Forms

- **Note: All specimens must be pre-approved by LHJs and DOH CD Epi prior to submission for testing.**
- Fill out BOTH sides of the form completely.
- Use one form per specimen.
- Place form in separate sealed plastic bag.
- Place form in outer box (but NOT inside secondary container with head or bat!).
- IF more than 1 bat in same box, use separate clearly labeled secondary containers for each.

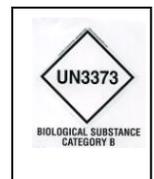


Form available online at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5230/303-013-Rabies.pdf>

## 4. Labeling

- Tape box for shipping.
- Check for UN3373 Biological Substances label on side of outer box.
- Check for DOH Approved Facility label on side of outer box.
- Include responsible party (shipper's) name/phone number on outer box.



## 5. Addressing / Shipping

- Ensure the "From" and "To" addresses are correctly labeled on outer box.
- **Keep a copy of shipping paperwork for tracking number!**

**Ship to:**  
Public Health Laboratories  
ATTN: Virology Lab  
1610 NE 150th St.  
Shoreline, WA 98155-9701

## Questions?

CD Epidemiology 24-hours:  
(206) 418-5500 / 1-877-539-4344

Virology: (206) 418-5458  
FAX: (206) 418-5485



For complete written guidelines on this procedure, see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/rabiesspecimenguidelines.pdf>

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