

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## Rabies, DFA (Version 2)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Bats	Prompt notification of your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) is important for quality testing.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send euthanized bats whole.</li> <li>• Animal heads: Cut at a point several vertebrae below the head. This will ensure that brain stem is included in the specimen.</li> <li>• <b>Do not</b> use an axe or power saw, because infected material may become aerosolized.</li> </ul>	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transport device:</b> DOH approved packaging.</li> <li>• <b>Rejection Criteria:</b> WA PHL will make this assessment upon receipt.  Please note below criteria:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No head on bat.</li> <li>○ No brain to test.</li> <li>○ Brain is liquefied.</li> <li>○ Missing brain stem.</li> <li>○ Please see general rejection criteria on page 2.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transport:</b> Refrigerate and ship to arrive at WAPHL during business hours. Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.  Ship as Category B (UN3373).</li> <li>• <b>Storage:</b> Refrigerate at 2 - 8°C.</li> </ul>
Animal Heads					

**General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)**

- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Did not obtain LHJ approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Approval by LHJ.
- Event ID submitted with specimen.
- Type of animal, date of exposure, and name of person exposed.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

**Collection kit availability**

Upon Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) approval, shippers are available to DOH approved facilities.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthLaboratories/MailRoom>

**Comments**

- Only veterinarians, animal control officers, local health or wildlife officials, and others who have been appropriately trained and have rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis should remove animal heads.
- CAUTION: The brain, spinal cord, salivary glands, and saliva of the animal may contain rabies virus. If an exposure occurs during the process of removal of the head, it should be noted on the laboratory submission form for the animal.
- Always wear protective gear (waterproof gloves, a facemask and eye protection) and exercise caution with the use of knives and other sharp objects during the procedure.
- Large livestock heads, such as cows and horses, should be sent to Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) for necropsy. Consult Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ)