

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

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## **Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request**

### **A. Why Must Animals Be Deceased Prior to Submission?**

In order for the Rabies Response Program to work efficiently we do not schedule collections until the animal is deceased. The RRP works diligently to collect samples as quickly as possible for all PHUs. We run into problems when time is spent arranging a collection which then needs to be cancelled because it is determined that the animal is not deceased and ready for collection. It also affects the RVTs involved as the individual originally scheduled may not be available for the new collection time frame.

If a PHI does not believe they will be able to complete the submission form at the time that they receive confirmation of the euthanasia then there is an accommodation for this. The PHI can submit the form immediately provided they state in the submission that they will contact the RRP office to confirm the animal is deceased and ready for collection. Once the RRP receives this confirmation we will then proceed with making collection arrangements.

## **B. Saving Your Submission Form**

If you would like to save your submission form for your records then it must be done **prior** to hitting the green "Submit" button. There are a few different options depending on what device you are using.

### ***Desktop***

1. From the "PHU Request for Specimen Collection" screen, right click and select "Print"
  2. Change the "Printer Destination" to "Save as PDF" or "CutePDF Writer"
- *When you are in the "Print" screen make sure the Submission details can be viewed, if it is blank you will need to exit from the print screen and repeat the above steps.*

### **Android Tablet**

1. When you have the "PHU Request for Specimen Collection" screen open, click on the 3 dots in the top right of the screen
  2. Click "share" from the drop down list
  3. Click "print" from the drop down list
  4. Save as PDF and then choose the folder you would like it saved in
- [Click here to view screenshots of each step](#)

### **iPad**

1. When you have the "PHU Request for Specimen Collection" screen open, click on the "square with the arrow pointing up" at the bottom of the screen
  2. Click on "Save PDF to iBooks"
  3. Once the PDF document is open in iBooks, click on the "square with the arrow pointing up"
  4. Click on "Mail" (this will depend on the email provider you use) to email the PDF to yourself.
- [Click here to view screenshots of each step](#)

### **C. When To Select "Suspect Rabies" On Your Submission Form**

When you are filling out the submission form there is a section titled "Reason For Euthanasia". The following options are listed:

1. Existing Medical condition
2. Accident/injury
3. Behavioural
4. Suspect rabies (only choose this if rabies symptoms present)
5. Unable to confine for observation
6. Other
7. Not applicable

When you select "Suspect Rabies" it changes the shipping requirements because these samples are shipped as Biological, Category B instead of as Exempt Animal Specimen. When a sample is shipped Biological, Category B there is different documentation required and additional costs associated with it.

Only select "Suspect Rabies" if it is highly suspicious that the animal has rabies and is actually exhibiting symptoms associated with the disease; such as,

- Seizures
- Paralysis
- Foaming at the mouth
- Unusual aggression

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### **When Is An Animal Unfit For Testing**

Although the CFIA Laboratory can do amazing things with the smallest of samples there are some specimens that will produce an unfit result.

It can be difficult to determine the quality of the sample from the external appearance of the animal. If there is a chance that the specimen is testable it will be sent to the CFIA lab for testing.



Photo Credit: CFIA

Some examples of damage that could produce unfit results are:

1. Crushed head
2. Flattened specimen
3. Desiccated/mummified specimen
4. Decomposing body (the presence of maggots)
5. Bullet wound
  - A rifle bullet will expand/fragment and scramble the brain; whereas, a shotgun bullet will not.

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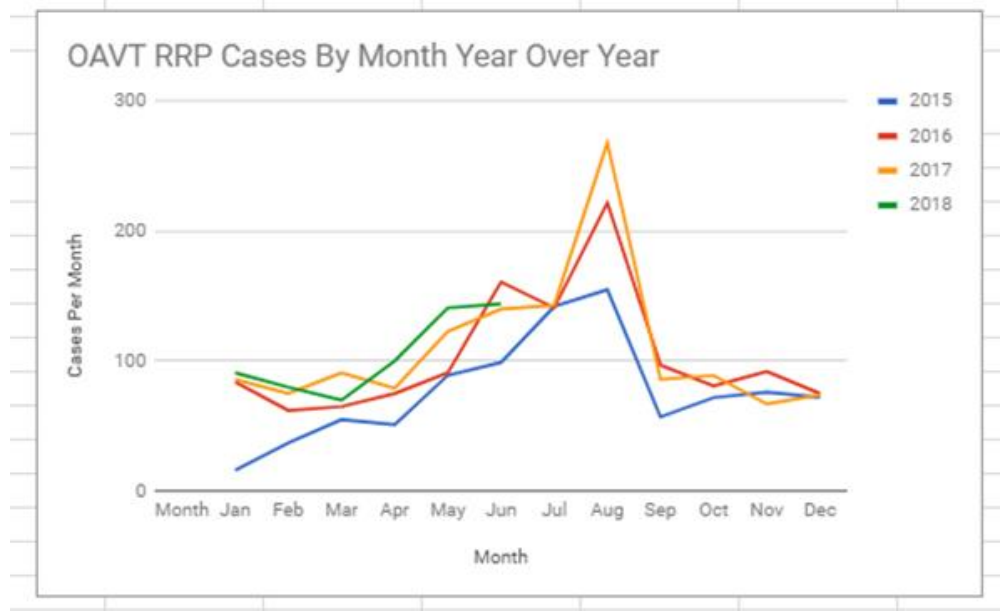
### **2017 Stats for Testing Through the RRP**

RRP case submissions continue to grow year over year.

In 2017 the RRP processed over 1400 cases and in total 4250+ cases since beginning the program in December 2014.

Rabies positives were seen in the following health unit areas:

- Chatham- Kent (bat)
- Durham (bat)
- Elgin- St.Thomas (bat)
- Grey-Bruce Owen Sound (bat x 3)
- Halton (bat)
- Hamilton (cat & bat)
- Hastings Prince-Edward County (bat x 2)
- Huron (bovine)
- Leeds Grenville (bat)
- Middlesex-London (bat)
- Ottawa(bat x 3)
- Perth District (bovine)
- Waterloo (bat)
- York (bat)



### What You Should Know About Rabies Specimen Collections at a Private Residence

Due to the nature of rabies testing, the following criteria must be met in order for a specimen to be collected at a private residence:

1. The animal must be deceased
2. The animal owner must have a safe place where the procedure (decapitation/brain removal) can occur if the animal is greater than 1lb
  - o There must be an area to perform the collection that is **out of public view** (i.e. not appropriate in most residential areas)
3. The animal owner is responsible for the disposal of the remains after the collection has been completed. Method of disposal will depend on municipal regulations.



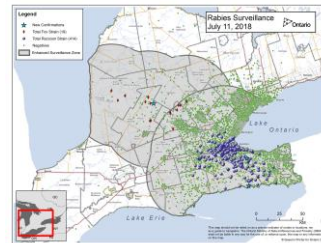
If any of the above criteria cannot be met then we recommend the animal be transferred to a:

1. Veterinary hospital
2. Animal Shelter/Humane Society
3. Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility

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## MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario

The MNRF is reporting on their results of testing, surveillance and bait drops. As of July 11th, 2018 the MNRF is reporting a total of **414 cases of raccoon strain** and **19 cases of fox strain** rabies in Ontario since the outbreak began in December 2015.



In 2018, the MNRF has tested over 1800 animals and distributed more than 88 000 baits.

[Larger image here](#)

The raccoon strain cases are distributed amongst the following Public Health Units:

- Hamilton: 195 raccoons, 99 skunks, 1 fox, 2 cats
- Haldimand-Norfolk: 27 raccoons, 2 skunks, 1 llama
- Niagara: 33 raccoons, 6 skunks
- Brant: 21 raccoons, 1 skunk
- Halton: 17 raccoons, 9 skunks

The fox strain cases are distributed amongst the following Public Health Units:

- Perth: 6 cows, 2 skunks
- Huron: 1 cow, 3 skunks
- Waterloo: 1 fox, 5 skunks
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: 1 skunk

The MNRF has also released their most recent issue of the [Rabies Reporter](#) (January -June 2017) and the [3rd quarter tables and maps](#) (July-September 2017).

For more information on rabies you can visit the following sites:

1. [OMNRF: Rabies in Wildlife](#)
2. [OMAFRA: Rabies in Ontario](#)
3. [OAVT RRP Rabies Public Portal](#)
4. [OAVT RRP Rabies Resources](#)



### 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.

Year to date (May) there has been a total of **948** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **529** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **69** were positive for rabies, including **32** that were from Ontario.

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

**ARCHIVED ISSUES OF THE RABIES INSIDER CAN BE FOUND ON THE RRP WEBSITE IN THE [PUBLIC HEALTH PORTAL](#).**



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

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