



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

## Tips for Submitting a Rabies Specimen Collection Request

### Specimen Location Information:

When the RRP is collecting a specimen from a business the following information is required:

#### 1. Hours of Operation

- It is important to speak with a staff member at the facility as the information provided on the website may not be current.
- If the collection location is an animal shelter or humane society please ask if they have staff available outside of their regular hours of operation. Many shelters are only open to the public for a limited period of time but have staff caring for the animals all day. The more hours the RRP has to work with the faster we can collect a specimen.

#### 2. Internal Reference Number

- This is a crucial piece of information and is required to ensure that when the RVT arrives at the collection location the correct specimen is collected from the correct animal.
- It is especially important when collecting a sample at a Humane Society or Animal Control Centre due to the volume of animals that are handled by these facilities.

#### 3. Contact Name

- The contact name supplied on the submission form should be for an individual who will be working at the facility during the time frame in which an RVT would be collecting the sample (1-2 days from the time of the request).



#### 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 [reg@ohavt.org](mailto:reg@ohavt.org) with the corrections needed.  
 If you require a copy of this completed submission form, print this page before clicking submit.  
 Requests 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



## CFIA Results

The CFIA Rabies Laboratory's operating hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm. The CFIA will email all results to your Public Health Unit's rabies dedicated email address during their regular business hours. As a general rule, the results usually come through after 3:00pm.

Below is the statement directly from the CFIA regarding their turn-around time:

**"The turn-around time (TAT) for the Fluorescent Antibody Test on fresh tissue is **72 hours**, and for the Immunohistochemistry Test on formalin-fixed tissue is 10 days, from receipt of the sample at the laboratory."**



## Bats

Bats are very hardy animals and can survive very extreme conditions because they have the ability to hibernate or enter a state of torpor.

Definition of Torpor (as found in the [Merriam-Webster dictionary](#))

- a state of mental and motor inactivity with partial or total insensibility
- a state of lowered physiological activity typically characterized by reduced metabolism, heart rate, respiration, and body temperature that occurs in varying degrees especially in hibernating and estivating animals

Bats can enter a state of torpor (relatively deep sleep) for a few hours or a few days at a time. "Hibernation is a more advanced state of torpor where the bat can remain in a very 'deep sleep' for a number of days or weeks at a time." ([The Landmark Practice: Bats and Hibernation](#)).

Due to their ability to hibernate it can be very difficult for a member of the public to determine if the animal is in fact deceased or just sleeping. If there is ever a doubt that the bat is still alive it must be taken to a veterinary hospital, animal shelter, or wildlife control company to confirm and humanely euthanize, if necessary.

### **What happens if the bat is still alive when the RVT arrives at the collection location?**

- The collection will be cancelled and the home owner will be instructed to contact the local Public Health Unit for assistance in locating humane euthanasia services. Once the PHU has notified the RRP that the animal has been euthanized and is ready for collection the RRP will work on dispatching another RVT.

To give you an idea of how hardy these animals are we have included below some of the circumstances in which the bat was still alive:

- Frozen for 48 hours, shipped overnight to the CFIA laboratory - this

- resulted in a lab technician receiving PEP for a bite and testing delays
- Crushed in between a door, nasal blood secretions
- Sealed in an airtight container for 48hrs

*Please note: None of the above methods are considered humane methods of euthanasia*

## MNRF Report on Rabies in Ontario

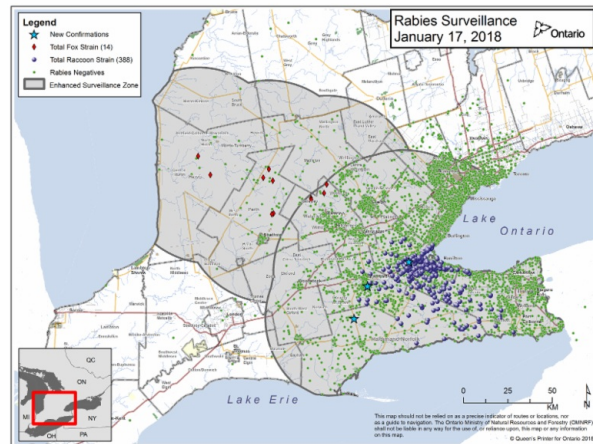
The MNRF is reporting on their results of testing, surveillance and bait drops. As of **January 17th, 2018** the MNRF has reported a total of **388 cases of raccoon strain** and **14 cases of arctic fox strain** rabies in Ontario since the December 2015 outbreak began.

In 2017 the MNRF tested over 3000 animals and dropped over 1.1 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](#)



## 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 2017 there was a total of **2775** animals submitted for rabies testing across the country, including **1619** which were submitted by Ontario. Of these cases, **239** were positive for rabies, including **149** that were from Ontario.

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

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

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