



OAVT PUBLIC HEALTH RABIES RESPONSE PROGRAM (RRP)

STORING ANIMALS REQUIRING RABIES TESTING

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. The RRP dispatches RVTs to animal hospitals and shelters across the province on behalf half of local Public Health Units.

HOW YOUR ANIMAL HOSPITAL/SHELTER CAN HELP!

If you are reporting an incident involving an animal bite/scratch to your local Public Health Unit and the animal is already deceased there is a possibility that rabies testing will be required. If the specimen collection is not occurring within a few hours after death please place the animal in the fridge or freezer to prevent sample deterioration.

Prior to placing the animal in the freezer the animal should be positioned with the neck extended and the front legs placed caudally against the chest (see diagram below). This position allows the RRP RVT easier access to disarticulate the head when there is not time to thaw the animal prior to their arrival.



REMAINS AFTER COLLECTION

The RRP RVT is only responsible for taking the specimen portion required for rabies testing. The remains of the animal that are left behind can be disposed of immediately after collection. Animals being sent for cremation should be labelled “rabies specimen” as a courtesy to crematorium staff to ensure proper handling procedures. Animals may be buried according to local laws. Livestock must first have a rabies negative result before being sent for deadstock.

HAVE A QUESTION?

If you have any further questions about specimen positioning or rabies testing please contact us at rpp@oavt.org or 1-844-872-2437. Information can also be found at www.oavtrrp.org.