



Rabies Testing at the CFIA Facilitated Through the OAVT Rabies Response Program

A wild or domestic animal is considered to be rabies “suspect” when:

- a) there is a case history that includes compatible clinical signs, and
- b) it is found in a geographic area with either a known epizootic in a rabies reservoir species (i.e., bats, foxes, raccoons or skunks) or a high probability of introduction of rabies based on proximity to known infected areas or importation of the animal from a rabies endemic country.

The CFIA follows the World Health Organization Expert Consultation on Rabies (2nd Report, 2013) definitions of exposure to determine eligibility for rabies testing.

For CFIA purposes, classification of exposure relates both to humans and domestic animals.

Exposures must be WHO Category II or III to be eligible to be tested at the CFIA (except for bats- see note below).

Category I No Exposure	Defined as touching an animal or licks on intact skin, even if the animal is rabid. For humans, it also includes feeding of animals. There is no possibility of exposure to the rabies virus through these types of contact.
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Category II Exposure	Defined as nibbling of uncovered skin or minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding. This is considered an exposure.
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Category III Extreme Exposure	Defined as single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches, licks on broken skin, or contamination of mucous membranes with saliva. This is considered an exposure.
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If you have determined a potential **bat exposure** is not a WHO Category II or III exposure, but an exposure can't be ruled out (as per your PHU's guidelines), on your Rabies Specimen Collection Submission Request Form please use the "Type of Exposure " Option:

"Other (for bats only, if confirmed to be found in close proximity to a human but direct contact can't be confirmed or ruled out. e.g bat found in baby's room while sleeping)".

Information gathered from:

1. WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies Second Report, 2013
2. Rabies Testing at the CFIA: Weekend and Holiday Testing