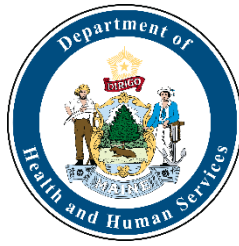


SUBMISSION OF ANIMAL SPECIMENS FOR RABIES TESTING
Health and Environmental Testing Lab (HETL)

Follow these guidelines for rabies testing analysis of animal specimens by HETL

- The “Rabies Submission Form – HETL” must be completed in full and with each specimen submitted.
- Specimens may be submitted by authorized individuals, who include licensed veterinarians, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife staff, United States Department of Agriculture staff, and Animal Control Officers.
- Private citizens may ONLY submit specimens after calling, consulting, and receiving authorization from either:
 - (a) Maine Center for Disease Control: 1-800-821-5821
 - (b) The State Veterinarian’s Office: 207-287-3701



Health and Environmental Testing Lab (HETL)
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
47 Independence Drive, Station 12, Augusta, ME 04333

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING SPECIMENS FOR RABIES TESTING

DELIVER SPECIMENS *MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 7:30AM TO 4:30PM*
(Excluding Holidays)

NO AFTER-HOURS submissions will be accepted

The Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) performs free rabies testing on any suspected rabid mammal that has encountered a human or domestic animal in any Maine municipality (public health at risk), with the exception of small rodents (squirrels, chipmunks, etc.). Small rodents may be tested on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the Maine CDC (1-800-821-5821) or a Maine State Veterinarian (207-287-3701).

When public health is not at risk, HETL will perform testing for a fee of \$150, payable at the time of specimen delivery. Payment is by check or credit card only (no cash). Checks must be made payable to “Treasurer of State” and accompany the sample upon receipt at HETL.

To determine whether testing is necessary for public health purposes or will require the \$150 testing fee, contact the Maine CDC (1-800-821-5821) or a Maine State Veterinarian (207-287-3701).

DO NOT DELIVER LIVE ANIMALS TO HETL
HETL DOES NOT PROVIDE EUTHANASIA.

HETL does not provide transportation. For domestic animals, the owner has responsibility for providing transportation to HETL but may seek assistance with their veterinary office or clinic. For unowned/stray animals, the municipality where the exposure occurred is responsible for transportation to HETL for testing.

Small Domestic (cats, dogs, etc.) – Small domestic animals, including sheep and goats without horns, being submitted for rabies testing must be coordinated with your local Animal Control Officer or veterinary clinic.

Large Domestic (horses, cows, etc.) – Large domestic animals, including sheep or goats with horns, being submitted for rabies testing must be coordinated with your local Animal Control Officer or veterinary clinic. Heads of large domestic animals must be submitted through Orono Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for preparation before being delivered to HETL.

Though there is no after-hours acceptance of specimens, HETL may be able to assist with refrigeration of specimens on a case-by-case basis. If you or a veterinarian are considering a

submission and require assistance for storage, please contact HETL at 207-287-1706 or 207-441-7438.

Wildlife - All wildlife samples must be processed through the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the United States Department of Agriculture. If you have contained, trapped or been in contact with a suspected rabid wild animal, please contact your local game warden or Maine State Police. See contact information below:

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (IF&W): 207-287-5252

TTY: 207-287-4471

Dispatch: 207-657-3030

Weekdays – Call Game Wardens and Biologists in your area:

Ashland 207-435-3231

Bangor 207-941-4440

Gray 207-657-2345

Greenville 207-695-3756

Sidney 207-547-5300

After hours - Call State Police in your area:

Augusta 1-800-452-4664

Gray 1-800-228-0857

Houlton 1-800-924-2261

Orono 1-800-432-7381

TTY (Statewide): 1-888-524-7900

Please LEGIBLY COMPLETE ALL AREAS of the Rabies Submission Form and attach to the OUTSIDE of the transport container.

SPECIMEN PREPARATION:

1. A properly trained and vaccinated individual must remove the head of the animal. The only exception are bats, which must be submitted whole bodied to identify the species.
 - a. *If submitting to Orono for decapitation and brain extraction, please follow their submission guidelines and complete all necessary forms and submit specimen along with the HETL submission form.*
2. Do not club or shoot in the head – the skull must remain intact.
3. Refrigerate specimen immediately.
4. Freezing is not recommended, however in certain cases it is viable for storage prior to transport. Freezing will cause a delay in results as the sample will need to thaw completely before being processed. If you are facing this scenario, please call HETL for consultation: 207-287-1706.
5. Specimens must be fresh. Specimens must be delivered as soon as possible after the animal's death. The test cannot be performed if the specimen is destroyed, decomposed, or desiccated.
6. Formalin fixed tissues are not acceptable for testing at HETL and will be rejected.

PACKAGING:

1. Specimen must be double bagged in heavy plastic bags.
2. Each bag must be sealed so it cannot leak.
3. If specimen has sharp or protruding parts (shattered bone, porcupine quills), it must be wrapped in several layers of newspaper before being placed into double bags.
4. Bagged specimen must be placed in an insulated container and surrounded with frozen packs (DO NOT USE ICE – wet ice leaks).

- a. If an insulated container is not available, use a box lined with several layers of newspaper and surround the specimen with frozen packs (DO NOT USE ICE).
5. The container must be closed securely with tape.

Animal remains and containers transporting those remains cannot be returned

Rabies Submission Form

- Submissions are accepted 7:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri (Excluding holidays or State closures). No after-hours submissions will be accepted.
- Before submitting, please read and follow submission guidelines.
- Use one form for each specimen submitted.
- Incomplete forms may result in testing delays.
- Fill in all the information.

For laboratory use only

Date Received: _____

Time Received: _____

Entered By: _____

Form last updated 10/2024

Submitter Information

Submitted By: _____ Phone: _____

Send Report To: Same as above

First/Last Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Results reporting preference? Call Email Email: _____

Animal Information

****DO NOT SUBMIT LIVE ANIMALS****

Animal Type: Dog Cat Raccoon Skunk Bat (Species): _____ Red Fox Grey Fox
 Other (Specify): _____

Domestic Animals Only (for testing or exposure)

Owners Name: _____ Domestic Animal Name: _____

Vaccination Status: Vaccinated, up to date Vaccinated, not up to date Not Vaccinated Unknown

Last known vaccination date: _____

Date of collection/euthanasia: _____

Did the animal show signs of rabies? Yes No Unknown

Animal was from: TOWN: _____ COUNTY: _____

Zip Code: _____ GPS Coordinates (if known): _____

Exposure Information

Exposure Type	Name, Address, and Phone Number (Human exposed or owner of animal exposed)	Date of Exposure	Date of Collection	Exposure Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Human <input type="checkbox"/> Animal				<input type="checkbox"/> Bite <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Human <input type="checkbox"/> Animal				<input type="checkbox"/> Bite <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Human <input type="checkbox"/> Animal				<input type="checkbox"/> Bite <input type="checkbox"/> Scratch <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

FOR HETL USE ONLY

FA Result: POS NEG Unsatisfactory Reported By: _____ Date: _____

Inconclusive (Send to CDC for Confirmation)

Results Called To: _____ Time: _____ Tech: _____

Rabies Notification (email) Date/Time: _____ Tech: _____