

## Rabies Submissions

The **Ohio Department of Health Laboratories** (ODHL) performs the rabies fluorescent antibody test on animal brain tissue in the State of Ohio. Rabies testing is performed at the following ODHL location:  
**Ohio Department of Health Laboratories, Building 22 (Located in the ODA Campus)**  
**8995 East Main Street**  
**Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068**  
**614-644-4654**

For **rabies testing ONLY**, access the ODH Submission form [here](#).

Sample submission information is available on this form, ODHL Guidelines for Rabies Specimen Submission. For questions or an emergency testing situation, call the ODHL during business hours at (614) 644-4654. For reporting rabies suspect animals or animal bites, contact your local health department (LHD). A list of LHDs is available on the ODH website at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov>. The ODH Zoonotic Disease Program is also available to answer rabies exposure questions at (888) 722-4371 or (614) 752-1029. NOTE – ODHL cannot process heads of large animals; see **ADDL Test Fees below**.

### **To arrange diagnostic testing in addition to rabies testing**

Submit the body of the animal, or the head of the animal, to the ADDL. Contact the ADDL Pathology Section at 614-728-6220 during business hours. ADDL Pathologists work with practitioners to review the clinical history and clinical signs, and to develop a differential diagnosis with testing options after a negative rabies test result is obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Laboratories (ODHL).

### **ADDL Test Fees**

Rabies testing is included with necropsy service at the price determined by species-related fees assessed by ODHL. There are additional ADDL fees for head removal (\$12.50) or for brain removal (\$35) under some conditions; consult with ADDL staff to determine if these may pertain to a given case.

### **Specimen Handling and Packaging**

Animal heads or brain tissue should be kept refrigerated, but not frozen at any time. The specimen should be double bagged using heavy plastic and each bag should be properly sealed. Do not use metal twist ties. If the specimen has any sharp protruding parts such as shattered bone, wrap it in several layers of newspaper first.

Place double-bagged specimens in an insulated container and surround the specimen(s) with frozen packs. If more than one animal of the same species is submitted in a container, double check that each specimen is labeled properly. A fully completed ADDL Submission Form, signed by a licensed veterinarian must be included for each specimen submitted (to access the ADDL form, click [here](#)). Place a copy of the completed ADDL submission form in an envelope or a clear plastic bag (e.g. ziplock bag) and either affix it to the outside of the container, or place it on the top of the lid of an inner container within an outer secondary container. Do not place forms within the inner shipping container so that they touch bagged specimens.

### **Shipping**

Specimens should be either hand delivered, or sent by overnight courier service. Do not ship on Fridays or before holidays, because there may be no one at the lab to accept delivery on weekends or holidays. Instead, hold the specimen until the following weekday. Specimens can be delivered directly to the ADDL from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no after-hours or weekend access to the laboratory facility to drop off specimens.