



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION**

**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**

**7601 E. Imperial Hwy, Bldg 500, Suite 105, Downey, CA 90242**

**Phone: (562)401-7088 - Fax: (562) 401-7112**

**PROCEDURES FOR RABIES SPECIMEN SUBMISSION**

Specimens should be kept refrigerated. **DO NOT FREEZE!** Freezing damages the tissue and makes testing difficult. Only properly prepared specimens will be collected for testing. Adequately prepare the specimen as follows:

1. Spray the animal's body with flea spray to kill any fleas or ticks.
2. Sever the head from the body for all animals, except bats. Submit only the head for testing.
3. Wrap the specimen (animal's head) in newspaper or other absorbent paper, and then place the wrapped specimen in a plastic, leak proof bag. Place the specimen in a second plastic bag to prevent any leakage.
4. Place the double bagged specimen into an insulated outer container (eg. box with ice pack). Add packing material to box, if needed to fill up the interior.
5. Place a copy of a completed Bite Report on the outside of the container. If the animal did not bite a person, note in the Remarks area why the animal is being submitted for rabies testing (eg. Symptoms compatible with rabies).
6. After the specimen is prepared, fax a copy of the completed Bite Report to Veterinary Public Health (562-401-7112 or 562-401-7113), and then call our office (562-401-7088) to request transportation of the specimen to the Public Health Laboratory for testing.
7. Our office will need your clinic/shelter name, address, phone and fax number to ensure proper specimen collection and reporting of results.
8. Contact our office if you have any questions about the required procedures for submitting rabies specimens.