



Submission for Rabies Diagnostics

Specimen Preparation Guidelines:

- Immediately upon death of the animal, remove its head and rinse off excess blood. Place the head in a heavy plastic leak-proof bag. Place this bag in another bag for additional protection against leakage.
- After double bagging the head, cool the specimen immediately. If the specimen will reach VLE within two days, keep it at 0 to 4°C by transporting it with multiple freezer packs in a Styrofoam insulated box. **Do not freeze the specimen unless it will be several days before reaching VLE. Do not use dry ice, as acid produced by the carbon dioxide has the potential to kill any virus present and interfere with cell-culture diagnostics.**
- For small animals (such as bats or rodents), ship the entire carcass.
- Dogs or cats that bite a human should be quarantined, if practical, for ten days. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the quarantined animal should be euthanized and the head submitted for rabies testing

Specimen Shipment Guidelines- (Rabies):

- **It is essential that you PHONE VLE when you know that you will be sending in a head for rabies diagnosis.** Prior notification will enable us to trace shipments that are overdue, and also ensures that cases involving human exposure are given the highest priority.
- Contact VLE by telephone and provide the following information:
 - Mode of shipment
 - Date and time of shipment
 - Location and estimated time of arrival
 - TRANSPORTATION CONTROL NUMBER (TCN) for AMC flight shipments. The TCN allows AMC personnel to determine the specimen's location during shipment and helps VLE claim it quickly at destination.
- Specimens Shipped by AMC Flights (Rabies)
 - Specimens shipped to VLE on AMC flights should be coded: **"999 Signature Service" "Life or Death Impact"**
 - Packages that are so marked with all three designations will not be bumped off at stopovers enroute. "Signature Service" provides



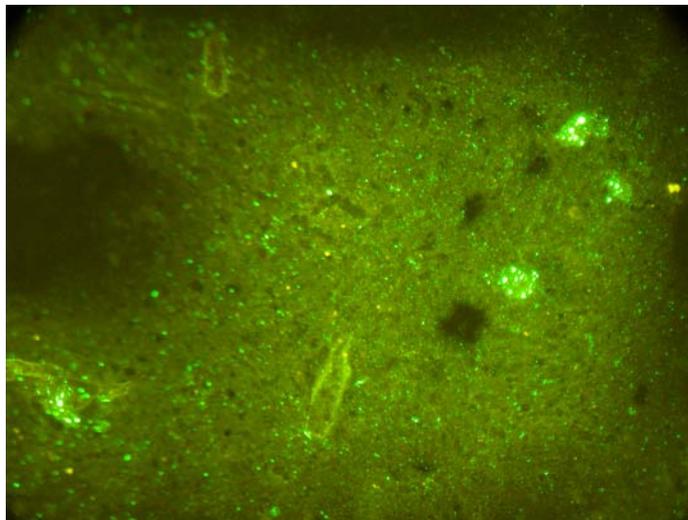
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- personalized handling of the package with accountable receipt at both ends of the shipment.
- AMC flights to **RAMSTEIN AIR FORCE BASE** are preferred. Our laboratory is located 8 km from Ramstein AFB.
- To avoid possible rejection of the sample for shipment, refer to it as a **“Diagnostic Specimen”** when arranging for AMC shipment. **Do not put “Rabies” on the box**
- If more expedited methods for shipping a rabies specimen are unavailable, use of the DoD Postal Service is authorized. Contact your installation’s official mail manager to arrange for express shipment if this method is used.

Rabies Diagnostics Request Form

Use DD Form 2620 / Request for and Report of Laboratory Examination for Rabies. Complete the entire form. Attach a copy of the bite report form if available.

IMPORTANT: Provide a telephone number and email that is staffed 24 hours every day for notification of laboratory results. If no such number is available, you must provide an after-duty-hours telephone number, such as the local emergency room handling the bite report or the home residence of the veterinary officer on the DD Form 2620.



A positive direct Fluorescent Antibody test (dFA) rabies result