

Infectious Disease Epidemiology Section  
Office of Public Health  
Louisiana Department of Health  
800-256-2748 (24 hr. number)  
<http://infectiousdisease.ldh.la.gov>

Submission of Rabies Specimens for Testing  
Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
(LSU School of Veterinary Medicine)

**DO NOT SHIP A DECOMPOSED SPECIMEN. DO NOT SHIP LIVE ANIMALS.**

**Specimen Preparation:**

- Do not ship live animals. Make sure bats are not alive when shipped.
- If possible, ship the decapitated head, with the exception of bats and small rodents.
- Separation of the head should be performed as soon as possible by a trained, qualified person.
- The minimum sample is a cross-section of the brainstem and the cerebellum.
- IMMEDIATELY CHILL THE SPECIMEN. **DO NOT FREEZE.**
- FREEZING MAY DELAY TESTING. Samples must thaw before testing.
- Specimens in a state of advanced decomposition are not suitable for testing. A specimen left at room temperature for 24 hours (or 3 to 6 hours in warmer temperatures) is highly unlikely to yield a valid result.
- **For large agricultural animals and horses, remove the brain from the skull before shipping. Please include the proximal portion of the cervical spinal cord to ensure submission of the complete brain.**

**Packaging:**

- Wear disposable gloves when packaging.
- Place each specimen within 2 watertight receptacles (a primary plastic bag or container inside a secondary plastic bag or container).
- Place the double-sealed specimen(s) inside an inner box, preferably a Styrofoam cooler.
- Place enough frozen cold packs around the specimen(s) to ensure specimens will remain cold for 48 hours. **DO NOT USE DRY OR WET ICE.**
- Add absorbent material inside the inner box (e.g., newspaper, paper towels) sufficient to protect the samples and absorb the total amount of liquid if leakage occurred.
- Seal the inner box and place inside a rigid outer container (cardboard box) for shipping.
- Place the completed LDH Rabies submission form(s) in a zip-lock bag on top of the inner box and secure the outer box with packing tape.
- If delivering directly to the lab by state contracted courier, the Styrofoam cooler without an outer box will be accepted. Tape the forms to the cooler and label the cooler "Rabies."

**NOTE:** *When shipping more than one specimen, each specimen must be individually double-bagged. Label each bagged specimen with a unique identifier. Include a separate submission form for each specimen.*

## Shipping

- Ship the package overnight.
- The outer container must be labeled on two opposite sides as follows:
  - Sender's name and address
  - Recipients' name and address
  - The words "Biological Substance, Category B"
  - The diamond-shaped UN 3375 label near the "Biological Substance, Category B" label

NOTE: *If shipping via US Postal Service, include a recipient phone number and label the package "Exempt Animal Specimen," in addition to the requirements listed above.*

### EXAMPLE OF SHIPPING LABEL:

Submitter name  
Submitter address  
Submitter city, state, zip  
Submitter contact  
Submitter phone

**Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic  
Laboratory (LADDL)  
River Road, Room 1043  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803**

**ATTN: LADDL Receiving  
225-578-9778**

After business hours, weekends, holidays, deliver to:  
LSU School of Vet Med, 1919 Skip Bertman Dr, Baton  
Rouge, LA 70803. (SVM Security: 225-578-9811)

**REFRIGERATE ON ARRIVAL**

**Exempt Animal Specimen**



**BIOLOGICAL SPECIMEN  
CATEGORY B**

### IMPORTANT CONTACTS:

Dr. Amy Bunch, State Public Health Veterinarian, LDH OPH  
Phone: 504-722-3094; After hours: 800-256-27848

LADDL Business Office  
Phone: 225-578-9777, 225-578-9778  
After hours: SVM Security 225-578-9811  
Urgent situation: 859-806-4775