

Animal Testing



Following are frequently asked questions regarding rabies testing done by ACHD. We encourage you to contact animal control or a veterinarian service to handle transporting the animal to ACHD.

When can I drop off an animal to be tested? And where do I drop it off?

Specimen Drop-Off

Specimens should be taken to the Public Health Laboratory in Lawrenceville, located at 3901 Penn Avenue, 15224 to Building 8 or Building 1 (schedule below):

Building 8 [Ring Doorbell]

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Building 1 [Knock to Notify Guard on Duty]

After-Hours Monday - Friday 3:31 PM to 8:29 AM

Saturday and Sunday any time **except** 6:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Holidays any time (24 hours)

Should the animal be alive or dead when dropped off?

ACHD accepts live and dead bats. All other animals must be dead when dropped off. You should contact an animal control agency so that they handle removing and transporting the animal to ACHD. Veterinarian services can also assist in transporting an animal to be tested.

What animals do you accept? How should animals be submitted?

Larger animals (dogs, cats, raccoons, groundhogs, etc.) should be double-bagged and both bags should be tied closed.

Smaller animals such as bats or rodents can be submitted in solid receptacles such as Tupperware containers, especially for live bats, or can be double-bagged and both bags should be tied closed.

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All animals regardless of size should be received cold. They should be stored in a cool area and stored/delivered with ice packs if available. All trash bags or like receptacles that hold the animal must be leak proof.

For animals weighing 35 pounds or more, please contact a veterinarian service so it can assist in transporting an animal to be tested.

Do you test dead birds? What do I do with a dead bird?

We do not test dead birds. You should contact the PA Department of Health for more information by calling 877-724-3258 or visiting:
<http://www.depgis.state.pa.us/WNV/index.html>.

What other information do I need to provide if I drop off an animal for testing?

You will be asked to provide information on the date of any incident, whether there was human exposure, the individuals exposed, the location, and contact information, etc.