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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, Nevada 89431-5557  
Telephone (775) 353-3601 Fax (775) 353-3661  
Website: <http://www.agri.nv.gov>

### Rabies Shipping Requirements

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Dear Client:

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)'s Animal Disease Laboratory (ADL) is responsible for the diagnosis and control of animal diseases that are of public health significance including rabies testing. Specimen transport is crucial to the delivery of acceptable samples for testing. Biocontainment during specimen transport is critical in preventing both cross contamination of the outside of the package and cross-contamination between samples in the package.

The ADL is providing the follow recommendations for the shipment of rabies samples to the laboratory:

- Specimen transit time to the laboratory should be as short as possible, preferably within 48 hours.
- Specimens must be contained in a primary waterproof container (plastic bag or plastic container). The primary container should be wrapped in enough absorbent material to contain any leakage.
- Place the primary package into a secondary container (plastic bag or plastic container).
- Place the secondary package in a rigid outer package (e. g. Styrofoam container).
- Surround the secondary package biological specimen by using frozen ice packs to control temperature. Consider the temperatures during summer transport, and pack adequately.
- The specimen should remain refrigerated and is the preferred method of transport. Avoid shipping body-warm or room temperature specimens since this may compromise the specimen and the validity of the test. Frozen samples will be accepted. Freezing the sample may contribute to delays in turn-around time. Use this option for expected delays in transit.
- Select the most rapid means of transit or shipping (i.e. same day, Fed Ex overnight). Ship to NDA-Animal Disease Lab, 405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Sparks, NV 89431.
- Contact ADL for rabies specific submission forms.

If you have any additional questions, please contact the Animal Disease Laboratory at (775) 353-3709.

For more information about rabies testing, visit our website,  
[http://agri.nv.gov/Animals/Animal\\_Disease/Rabies\\_Information/](http://agri.nv.gov/Animals/Animal_Disease/Rabies_Information/).

Sincerely,

Animal Disease Laboratory  
Nevada Department of Agriculture  
Office: (775) 353-3709; Fax: (775) 353-3659