

How to ship a bat for rabies testing



General Information

- Bats that have had contact with humans will be tested at no charge at the WA State Department of Health (DOH) public health laboratory located in Shoreline. All submissions for rabies testing at the DOH laboratory must be preapproved by discussing the case with the local public health department. For residents of King County, contact Public Health—Seattle & King County’s Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Section at 206-296-4774.
- Bats with animal only contact (no human exposure) can be tested for rabies for a fee at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Owners with animals that have been in contact with a bat are responsible for shipping the dead bat to the laboratory for rabies testing, or their veterinarian may be able to assist them.
- Bats that have possibly exposed animals can be tested for rabies by mailing the dead bat to the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The laboratory phone number is 541-737-3261.
- Cost of rabies testing: \$80 + \$5 accession fee = \$85 total

Never touch a bat (dead or alive) with bare hands. Always use heavy gloves or a shovel.

Packing Guidelines

All responsibility for safe packaging rests with the individual sending the package. The commercial shipping company is not responsible for improperly packaged materials that are transported. Commercial shipping companies have the right to question and refuse packages, and are likely to do so if the package is carelessly wrapped.

Only dead bats can be shipped. If the bat is still alive, a veterinarian or licensed pest or nuisance wildlife control operator may be contacted to humanely euthanize it. If these preferred options are not feasible, the bat can be killed by securely wrapping it and placing in a freezer for 24 hours before packaging for shipment.

Materials needed

- Dead bat
- Cardboard box labeled “Exempt Animal Specimen”
- Two zip lock plastic bags
- Frozen “blue” chemical ice packs
- Paper towels to absorb condensation
- Completed laboratory request form (page 3)
- Check for \$85 made out to OSU VDL



Packaging

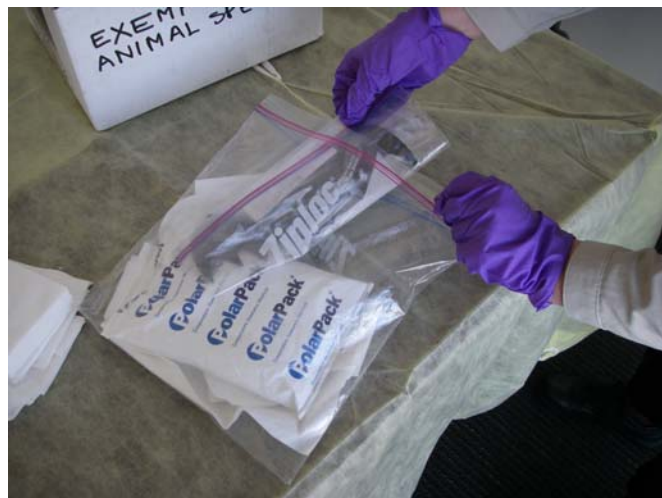
Wearing gloves, place the bat inside a leak-proof heavy-duty ziplock bag and seal it securely.

Label the bag with your name and **“Bat for Rabies Testing.”**

Packaging, continued

Place a blue ice packet (chemical ice—not frozen water or dry ice) and some paper towels inside a second ziplock bag.

Place the ziplock bag with the bat inside the second ziplock bag and seal the second bag securely.



Place the ziplock bags inside a rigid cardboard box.

Place packing material (newspaper, paper towels) around the contents for absorbency and cushioning.

Enclose a check for \$85 made out to “OSU VDL” Payment must be included with the specimen. Include the **laboratory form** (next page) with your name, address, phone number and e-mail. Write 1 by “Animal, Dead” and check “Rabies Suspect.” Under “TEST (S) REQUESTED,” check “Other” and write “Rabies.”



Exterior Labeling

Remove any old labels from the cardboard box.

Clearly label the package with the sender’s name, return address and daytime phone number.

Label the package “**Exempt Animal Specimen**”.



Shipping

The package may be sent through the U.S. Postal Service or by a commercial carrier such as FedEx or UPS, but the mailing address will be different if sent by commercial carrier.

U.S. Postal Service mailing address:

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
P.O. Box 429
Corvallis, OR 97339-0429

Commercial carrier shipping address:

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
30th and Washington Way
134 Magruder Hall
Corvallis OR 97331-4801

If the bat tests positive for rabies, or if it is untestable, contact Public Health’s Zoonotic Disease Program immediately at 206-205-4394 for quarantine instructions. For more information about bats and rabies, see www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/bats.aspx

