



Chief Veterinary Office, Animal Health and Welfare
545 University Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3T 5S6; T 204-945-7684

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Manitoba Rabies Central

Rabies is a reportable disease both provincially and federally. Since 2014, rabies management is provincially administered under the working group of Manitoba Rabies Central, and all suspect cases should be reported to the provincial authorities. Veterinarians who suspect an animal under their care has rabies, or suspect a domestic animal or a human were exposed to rabies must report these findings to the provincial authority.

If you suspect an animal in your care has been exposed to a rabid animal or potentially is infected with the rabies virus, you should report it to the Rabies Line for the province:

204-470-1108

This number is available during normal business hours, evenings, and weekends, and you will be in direct contact with the rabies veterinarian for the province.

The rabies veterinarian will determine if rabies testing is appropriate, and coordinate sample collection. **DO NOT submit rabies suspect samples/cadavers to the provincial Veterinary Diagnostic Services Laboratory without calling the rabies line first.**

If you suspect an animal in your care has clinical signs of rabies and that there has been potential human exposure to the virus, you should encourage the person(s) to report the incident to Health Links (204-788-8200; 1-888-315-9257 toll free), their local public health office (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html>), or their medical doctor/urgent care facility. In the event that the client does not want to or cannot report an incident of possible exposure to the rabies virus, you can report the incident to the local public health office, which will then be responsible for follow up.



Agriculture

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T 204-945-7684 (CVO Line) T 204-945-8220 (Veterinary Diagnostic Services Line)

Reminder on Appropriate Methods to Ship Biological and/or Infectious Samples

The Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS) Laboratory provides services to all Manitoba livestock producers and companion animal owners through their veterinarian. It is important to remember that biological and/or infectious samples need to be shipped in accordance with Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG regulations). You are responsible for the safety of the shipping company and laboratory staff receiving your samples. Please **DO NOT** ship federally reportable disease or rabies samples to VDS without first calling Manitoba Agriculture.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/2018/eng/1329499145620/1329499272021>

- List of Federally reportable diseases

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/veterinary-diagnostic-services.html>

- Link to Veterinary Diagnostic Services Laboratory, contact details, submission forms, fee schedule

Please note the following links that can assist you packaging samples according to TDG regulations

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/page-1296.html>

Good general practices include *but are not limited to*:

- Primary containment unit (watertight receptacle) encasing the sample.
- A secondary containment unit filled with absorbent material should encase the primary containment unit. The sample paperwork should be in a waterproof bag attached to the outside of the secondary containment unit.
- Once in the secondary containment unit the sample should be placed in a rigid box with ice packs (as needed) and absorbent material.
- The outside of the box should be labelled with the shipper, receiver, and any TDG labels as needed to alert the shipping company, the receiver, and ensure safe handling.

****These are only guidelines and it is up to you and your clinic to ensure you are following appropriate packaging and shipment of samples****