

Instructions for submitting suspected rabid animals for diagnosis

In case, any animal is suspected to be suffering from rabies (dead or alive), intimation should be given to the nearby veterinary hospital/dispensary and further instructions should be taken from veterinary officer/official.

In case of dead animal if this is not feasible and in places where post-mortem facilities are not available, the head of the big animals like horses, donkeys, cows, buffaloes etc. are severed at the middle of the neck with adequate protection for eyes and hands using goggles and gloves respectively. The whole head should be properly packed to ensure that there shall not be any kind of leakage/spillage of the infected material before sending the same to the laboratory.

Note: The material should be sent/brought personally to the laboratory immediately under cold chain to avoid putrefaction of the same rendering it unfit for testing.

In case of small animals e.g., dogs, foxes, jackals, mongooses etc. entire body may be brought to the laboratory after ensuring proper packing to avoid any kind of leakage/spillage.

In areas where post-mortem facilities are available, the whole brain should be harvested and preserved before sending it to the laboratory.

Preservation of tissue:

- 1) Divide the brain and medulla into two equal halves.
- 2) One half of the brain should be put in a clean, wide mouthed leak proof glass bottle or unbreakable plastic bottle containing formal saline (90ml physiological saline + 10ml of 40% formalin). The other half is preserved in 50% glycerol saline.
- 3) Entire tissue should be immersed in the preservative.
- 4) Each bottle should be labeled indicating its identity, date and time of preservation, source of tissue and preservative used.

Packing and mailing:

- 1) Specimen sent for diagnosis should be packed properly in a tight container so that there is no leakage of preservative or infective material. Postal rules should also be followed.
- 2) Adequate packing material should be used on all sides of the container and on the top so that there is no play inside the packing case.
- 3) Covering letter for the specimen must state the following:
 - a) Owner's name
 - b) Species and breed of animal
 - c) Vaccination status
 - d) History of contact with other animal
 - e) Its full clinical history
 - f) Whether the animal died itself or was killed
 - g) Whether it was observed and died during observation period
 - h) If so, the period of observation till death should be given
- 4) Send the specimen under registered parcel. Mention clearly the name and address.
- 5) If the material is to be sent to the local laboratory, the brain should be sent on the same day and over ice in a container.