



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

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Animal Packaging & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Whole Animals and Heads

San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory is providing Testing for Rabies Surveillance in San Luis Obispo County. It is important to follow the guidelines below for safely securing the package that contains the animal whole body or head. Follow your facilities policy guidelines for safe handling of dead animals.

MATERIALS

1. Provider Requisition
2. Leak Proof bags
3. Cooler and Freezer Packs

PROCEDURE

WHOLE ANIMALS (NO LARGER THAN A RACCOON)

1. Triple Bag the whole animal, securing each bag individually.
2. Place the **completely filled out** requisition in the Yellow Biohazard Bags provided.
3. Refrigerate the specimens (no more than 3 days) until ready transport to the laboratory.

HEADS

1. When removing the head be aware that the spinal cord near the base of the head is an important section for testing rabies.
2. For large heads triple package as the same for whole animals
3. For small heads or small animals (i.e. bats) place head or carcass in the provided yellow biohazard bag, and then place in a secondary and third bag.
4. Refrigerate the specimens (no more than 3 days) until ready to transport to SLO Public Health Laboratory.
5. **DO NOT FREEZE THE ANIMAL**

TRANSPORT

1. Place bagged animal in the provided cooler with several ice packs.
2. Place **filled out** requisition in a yellow leak-proof Biohazard bag and put it in the cooler.
3. If there is more than one animal of the same species be sure to identify each one separately.