



Veterinary Health Center

MANHATTAN, KANSAS

OFFICIAL PROTOCOL

BAT SUBMISSION RABIES PROTOCOL

Rabies (suspect) handling protocol for bats

1. **All bats that present to the emergency desk must be tested for rabies.**
2. KSVDL submission paperwork must be completed for communication purposes.
3. Have the individual that has delivered the animal complete highlighted areas of submission form.
 - a. Current KSVDL rabies submission paperwork will be maintained with the induction chamber at the discharge desk and exotics ward.
 - b. (<https://www.ksvdl.org/rabies-laboratory/diagnostic-test/diagnostic-submission-forms.html>)
 - c. This form should be evaluated by the receiving emergency clinician to ensure that contact information is provided in the event the test is positive.
 - d. **All submission forms must state GOOD SAM so we can access results.**
 - e. The animal will be received as a Good Sam patient.
 - f. Payment should be collected from the client for rabies testing (\$66) and applied to the Good Sam Mammal account. Pentobarbital will be covered by the Good Sam Account.
 - i. If the client declines paying for testing, testing will be paid from the Good Sam account.
 - g. The bat needs to have a patient number assigned (medical record). The medical record must stay with the animal until it is submitted to necropsy by the primary emergency clinician.
 - h. The veterinarian who receives the animal must sign the bottom of page, i.e. "Rec'd by Dr. (name) on (date) at (time)"
 - i. The primary emergency clinician is the responsible individual for after hours bat submissions.
 - a. This form **MUST be faxed to Veterinary Diagnostic Lab 785 532-4835** immediately so that they have a record of our desk having received the specimen. Individual sending fax must sign and date bottom and verify that fax transmits. The Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will coordinate with the Rabies Lab in the morning if there is any delay in receiving the animal.
 - b. A copy of the form must be put on ICU office door to remind us to follow up the next day.

4. **For deceased submissions**, the specimen should be wrapped appropriately and placed in VDL cooler by clinician or intern with appropriate form attached. Placing the bat in a box rather than a small plastic bag reduces the chances of it being lost. Box must be labeled and have submission form enclosed. Extra boxes will be in ICU office.
5. **For live submissions**, a closed container system (induction chamber) will be maintained at the discharge desk office on top of their refrigerator. A spare chamber will be maintained in the Exotics ward in the back room. There should always be one clean induction chamber in the discharge desk area.
 - a. If a LIVE animal is not contained (i.e. wrapped in a towel or in unsealed cardboard box), move it to the induction chamber as soon as possible and as safely as possible. This should only be done by rabies vaccinated personnel, i.e. emergency clinician or intern.
 - b. **The emergency clinician (or intern after midnight) will be responsible for euthanasia of the animal as soon as possible in the exotics ward.**
 - i. Wear exam gloves and thick protective leather gloves while handling and masking down animal prior to humane euthanasia. The bat should be placed in induction chamber with oxygen and isoflurane turned on for about 5 minutes to achieve sedation. Test for level of sedation with gentle prodding (don't use your fingers for this). Intraperitoneal sodium pentobarbital at 0.2 ml should be more than sufficient for all small bats in this region and is part of a humane euthanasia protocol for bats. Interns should contact their ER clinician if there are ANY questions or concerns. Also, brain matter must be preserved and kept intact for testing.
 - c. A live rabies suspect has more chances to infect another animal or person the longer it takes to euthanize. For public health reasons, euthanasia should be prioritized over non-urgent ER patients.
 - d. **Euthanized animals and previously faxed submission form should be taken to the VDL after hours cooler by the primary emergency clinician (or intern after midnight).** Placing the bat in a box rather than only a small plastic bag reduces the chances of it being lost. Provide two copies of the rabies submission form: one copy stays with the carcass in the box, and one copy goes into the after-hours submission tray as with any other regular body care submission. The rabies submission form are in both the after-hour tray and the animal's container. Extra boxes in ICU office.
6. **After hours and weekend testing** are determined on a case by case basis. Guidelines are available to help establish the need for immediate testing (KSVDL Rabies Testing Guidelines).

Further questions regarding rabies diagnostics testing can be answered by calling Rolan Davis at 785-532-4483 during regular business hours. For after-hours Rabies emergency, please talk to your clinician first and he or she will determine if Rolan (Rabies KSVDL) should be contacted on his cell phone.