

# Collection and Packaging of Animal Heads for Rabies Examination



Kentucky Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Do Not Ship Live Animals!

### Supplies Needed for Rabies Packaging



1 - Outer Box



1- Large blue absorbent pad  
1- Small blue absorbent pad



1 - 24 x 24 Infecon Bag  
1 - 16 x 16 Infecon Bag



1- Plastic Bucket with Lid



1- Zip Bag  
1 - Outreach or Lab Form 254A  
1- Shipping Label

### Collection

Suspect animals should generally be quarantined and allowed to die a natural death. Clubbing or shooting in the head will damage brain tissues needed for examination. Poisons should be avoided as they may interfere with testing.

Wild and unhealthy stray animals can be immediately euthanized and submitted for examination.

### Packaging

Remove the animal head from the body. For bats and small squirrel-size animals, it is preferable to submit the whole body, as the brain is less likely to dry out.



1. Place larger blue absorbent pad in bottom of box.



2. Place bucket in box and put the smaller absorbent pad inside.



3. Line bucket with large (24 x 24) Infecon bag.



4. Place animal/head in small clear (16 x 16) Infecon bag, securely close and put in larger Infecon bag.

**All submissions must be in a clear bag.**



5. Fill large Infecon (24 x 24) bag with ice or ice packs and securely close.



6. Put lid on bucket. Do NOT use tape on lid. Fill out Rabies lab form 254A completely and place in zip bag. Place zip bag on top of sealed bucket.  
**Lab Form must not be placed inside bucket.**



7. Seal box with tape and place shipping label on the outside of the box.

The brain will be examined by microscopic techniques.  
Results will be phoned to your Local Health Department Environmentalist.