



# OAVT PUBLIC HEALTH RABIES RESPONSE PROGRAM (RRP)

## RVTS HELPING IN THE COMMUNITY

Since January 2015 the OAVT RRP has been recruiting RVTs to provide this paid service to 34 Public Health Units across Ontario.

Becoming an OAVT RRP Team member allows RVTs to contribute to keeping their local communities safe while showcasing their unique skills as RVTs.

## Interested?

Contact us:

**Phone: 1-844-872-2437**

**Email: [rrp@oavt.org](mailto:rrp@oavt.org)**

**Or visit us online at:**

**[www.oavtrrp.org](http://www.oavtrrp.org)**

### WHAT WE DO!

The OAVT Public Health Rabies Response Program (RRP) is a joint partnership between the OAVT and the Ministry of Health (MOH). The RRP provides the service of specimen collection and shipping for potential rabies exposures between animals and people.

### HOW YOUR LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL CAN HELP:

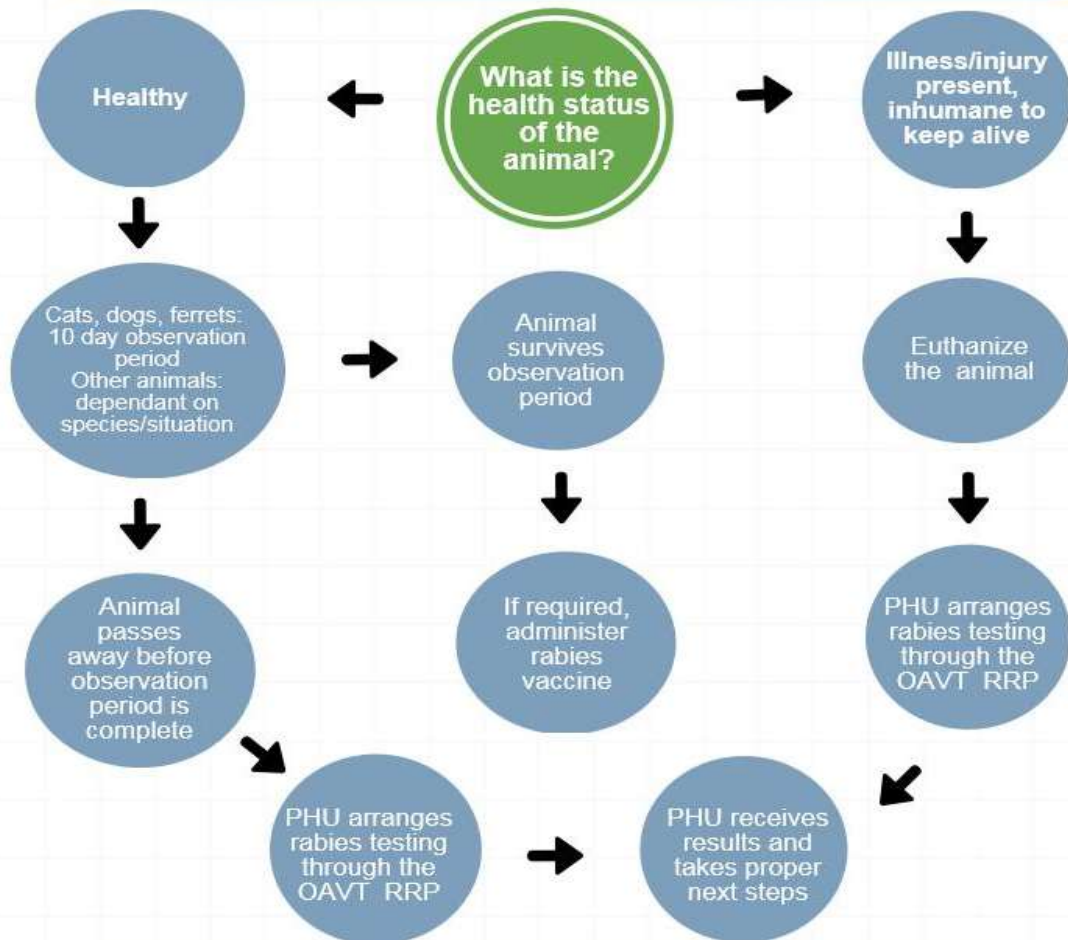
Our RVTs are collecting samples from veterinary hospitals, shelters, private residences and farms. The following are a few tips for you that will help improve the efficiency and accuracy of our program:

1. Once the animal is confirmed deceased place it in sternal recumbency, if possible. If not, lateral recumbency can be used.
2. When possible, store the animal in a cool, dry location that cannot be accessed by scavengers. In the spring and summer months when outside temperatures are above 5°C pack the head with icepacks to preserve the specimen.
3. The RRP will call to confirm with the location contact the name of the RVT performing the collection and the date and time the RVT will be arriving. It is important that your client be aware of this.
4. Once the RRP RVT has removed the head/brain, the remaining body can be cremated or buried (following municipal guidelines). Animals being sent for deadstock must wait for a rabies negative result from the Public Health Unit before proceeding.



Do you know of a person who has been bitten/scratched by an animal?  
**YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT IMMEDIATELY!**

What happens after you call Public Health?  
Public health will complete an investigation and then...



## HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION ACT

A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, veterinarian, police officer or any other person who has information concerning any animal bite or other animal contact that may result in rabies in persons shall as soon as possible notify the medical officer of health and provide the medical officer of health with the information. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 557, s. 2 (1); O. Reg. 420/07, s. 1.

*This infographic is based on information provided in the MOHLTC's Guidance Document for the Management of Suspected Rabies Exposures and reflects situations pertaining to human exposure. Situations of exposures involving domestic animals, that do not involve human exposure, should be directed to the animal owner's veterinarian. Veterinarians seeking additional guidance in these cases can contact OMAFRA via the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 877-424-1300.*