



## RVTS HELPING IN THE COMMUNITY

Registered Veterinary Technician's (RVTs) make up the OAVT RRP Team. These highly trained professionals are dispatched to collect potential rabies specimens for testing when requested by one of the 34 Public Health Units across Ontario.

To learn more about RVTs visit: [www.oavt.org](http://www.oavt.org)

To learn more about the OAVT RRP visit: [www.oavtrrp.org](http://www.oavtrrp.org)

## Have a question?

Contact us:

Phone: 1-844-872-2437  
Email: [rrp@oavt.org](mailto:rrp@oavt.org)

# OAVT PUBLIC HEALTH RABIES RESPONSE PROGRAM (RRP)

## POST COLLECTION INFO SHEET FOR: VETERINARY HOSPITALS & ANIMAL SHELTERS

### 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.

### What happens after specimen collection?

Once an OAVT Rabies Response Program RVT Team Member has collected the animal specimen for rabies testing the following will happen:

1. The specimen will be packaged and shipped to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Laboratory for rabies testing.
2. Once the sample arrives at the CFIA laboratory it may take up to 72 hours for results to be returned to the public health unit that requested the test.
3. The public health unit staff will be in contact with the exposed person and anyone else involved in the investigation to relay the test results and any further instructions.

### What should be done with the animal remains after collection?

Remains that are left after collection are the responsibility of the animal/property owner to dispose of. Options for disposal include:

1. Burial in accordance with local municipal guidelines- can be completed immediately afterwards.
2. Cremation service arranged through veterinary hospital/ animal shelter -can be completed immediately afterwards. Please label the package as "rabies suspect" so crematorium staff know to use proper handling procedures.
3. Large animal deadstock removal- only after a rabies negative result has returned.