

# MAMNUAL OF RABIES BRAIN SPECIMEN SUBMISSION AND TRANSPORTATION

## PURPOSE

For the rabies confirmation test, namely dFAT, at RADDL, the brain specimen collected by straw sampling method can be submitted. Because of the hazards associated with handling specimens, safety transport and submission are required. This manual provide the guidance how LGU can submit rabies brain sample to RADDLs.

## BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization (WHO) has clear guidelines when it comes to rabies virus. All rabies-related shipments are classified as Category B infectious substances except for rabies virus cultures which fall under Category A.

The recommendations of the United Nations (UN) state that all Category B infectious substances should be assigned under UN number 3373.

Since rabies-suspected animal brain samples will be transported, this shipment will be classified as a Category B infectious substance under UN 3373. The following procedures are also patterned with PI 650.

## SUPPLIES/ MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Small resealable ziplock
- ✓ Styrofoam box
- ✓ Stickers (Hazard mark, proper shipping name, orientation label)
- ✓ Printed labels (Name and address of consignee, name and address of shipper, name and phone number of responsible person)
- ✓ Parafilm
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Specimen container (any of the following: 2 mL cryovial, 15/ 50 mL conical tube, or 20 mL white scintillation vial)

## SPECIMEN

Brain samples from animals suspected of rabies (dog, cat, etc)

DEFINITION OF  
TERMS AND  
ACRONYMS:

Specimen: brain samples from animals suspected of rabies (dog, cat, etc)

Category B Infectious Substance: those that can cause infections that are not severely disabling or life-threatening when exposed

LGU: local government unit; the shipper/consignor

RADDL: Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory: the receiver/consignee

Responsible person: sole person to contact in LGU regarding the shipment

PROCEDURES

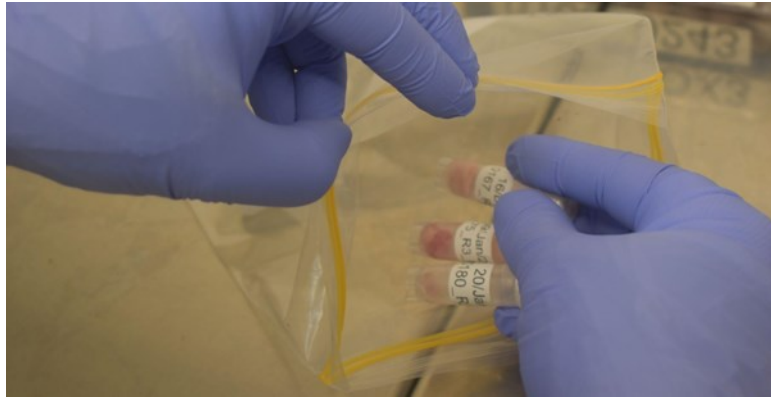
PAKAGING

Packaging (Triple Packaging System)

1. All specimens should be kept frozen until transportation.
2. While wearing gloves, prepare the specimens to be shipped. Make sure that each specimen container contains the actual sample and is correctly labeled with tissue type, sample ID, and date of collection.
3. The specimen container will serve as the primary receptacle. Tightly close the specimen container and seal all edges with parafilm.



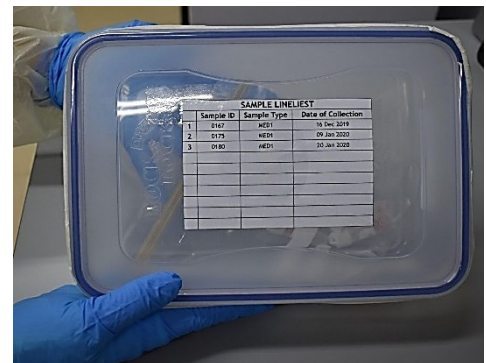
4. Place the specimen containers inside a ziplock. The ziplock will serve as a cushioning material between the primary and secondary packaging. Make sure that the ziplock is properly sealed.



5. Place the sealed ziplocks inside the food container. The food container will serve as the secondary packaging.

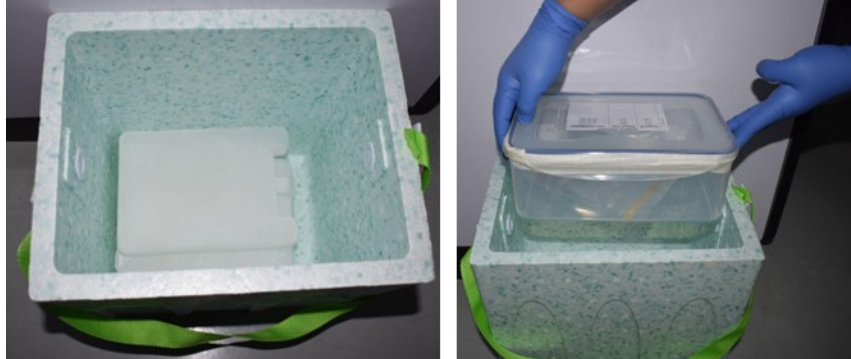


6. Lock the food container and seal all edges with tape. Paste the itemized list of contents across the surface of the container.



7. Prepare the outer packaging. The styrofoam box will serve as the outer packaging and the transport box. Make sure that at least two surfaces of the box have a minimum dimension of 100mm x 100mm (10 cm by 10 cm).

8. Lay three to four ice packs at the bottom of the styrofoam box. Place the food container on top of the ice packs. 3-4 ice packs can maintain cold transport for 4-6 hours of shipping. Longer shipping times would require additional ice packs.



9. Change outer gloves. Close the styrofoam box and seal all edges with tape.



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PROCEDURE

MARKING AND LABELING

1. Prior to marking and labeling, the LGU should identify the responsible person regarding the package.
2. Paste the necessary labels (proper shipping name, orientation label) and marks (correct hazard mark, name and address of consignee, name and address of shipper, name and phone number of responsible person) across the surface of the outer packaging.

3. Make sure that the outer packaging is free of unnecessary marks and writings.


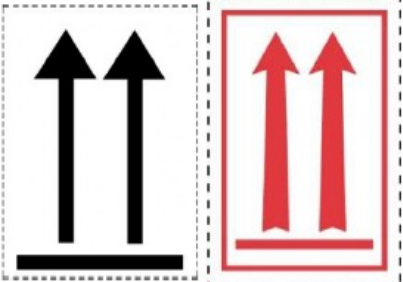


4. The LGU should coordinate with RADDL and courier, if there is any.

**PROCEDURE**  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
**TO RADDL**

1. If possible, transport the samples immediately after packaging.
2. Keep the transport box in an upright orientation and handle it with care.

Packaging	
<p>Primary container</p>	<p>Cushioning material</p>
<p>Secondary container</p>	<p>Outer packaging</p>

<b>Correct Marks and Labels</b>	
<b>Correct hazard mark with proper shipping name (Any of the two)</b>	<b>Orientation label (Any of the two)</b>
	
<b>Name and address of shipper</b>	<b>Name and phone number of responsible person</b>
<b>Shipper</b> Christine Joyce M. Javier Research Institute for Tropical Medicine 9002 Research Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila 1781	<b>24-h Responsible Person:</b> Christine Joyce M. Javier +639876543210
<b>Name and address of consignee</b>	*the responsible person could be different person from the shipper, for example:
<b>Consignee</b> Dr. Patricia Mae T. Lakanilao Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory 3 Department of Agriculture, Brgy. Paraiso, Tarlac City, Tarlac 2300	

**REFERENCE**

- Guidance on regulations for the Transport of Infectious Substances (WHO, 2021)
- Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (UN, 2021)
- Dangerous Goods Regulations (IATA, 2021)