Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events
For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:
MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: ahops.mda@maryland.gov, 410-841-5810
DHMH - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: dhmh.czvbd@maryland.gov, 410-767-5649
DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, FWHP@dnr.state.md.us, 410-226-5193

Rabies Antibody Titers (RFFIT) Test Submission Guidelines for Maryland Residents Not Employed by State or Local Health Departments in Rabies/Zoonotic Disease Control Programs or Local Government Animal Control Agencies

Effective January 1, 2014, DHMH Laboratories Administration implemented a schedule of charges for Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test (RFFIT) submissions from Maryland residents not employed by state or local health departments (LHDs) in rabies/zoonotic disease control programs or local government animal control agencies. The submission guidelines are provided in the attached memo and can also be found at http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/rabies.aspx. For additional information, please contact the DHMH Laboratories Administration Rabies/Zoonotic Diseases Program at 410-767-6177.

For LHD personnel assessing deviations from the recommended rabies post-exposure prophylaxis regimen, please consult with DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vectorborne Diseases (CZVBD) staff as usual. If, in the course of the consultation, CZVBD staff recommend that a rabies virus neutralizing antibody titer be determined, then there will be no charge for the RFFIT.

Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated first onset</th>
<th>Estimated end date</th>
<th>Jurisdiction affected</th>
<th>Species affected</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Estimated # of cases to date</th>
<th>Lead agency</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 5, 2014</td>
<td>February 12, 2014</td>
<td>Talbot, St Mary’s</td>
<td>Juvenile Ruddy ducks</td>
<td>emaciation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>See page 2</td>
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To report cases of disease in:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Wild animals</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDA Animal Health Program Office</td>
<td>MD DNR / USDA Wildlife Service Call Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-841-5810</td>
<td>1-877-463-6497</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Humans</th>
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<tr>
<td>DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases</td>
<td>DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>410-767-5649</td>
<td>410-767-5649</td>
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</table>
**Ruddy Duck Mortalities**

During the week of February 5 – 12, MD DNR was notified of wild Ruddy Duck mortalities in Talbot and St. Mary’s counties. Approximately 100 birds were collected (for diagnostics as well as disposal). Carcasses were examined by MD DNR, MDA, and the USGS/ National Wildlife Health Center. All birds were juveniles and were emaciated; gross necropsy results indicated several miscellaneous pathologies (lung edema, GI parasitism). The final diagnosis made by MDA and NWHC was emaciation.

**MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2014**

Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending March 15, 2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Bat Total (New)</th>
<th>Cat Total (New)</th>
<th>Cow Total (New)</th>
<th>Dog Total (New)</th>
<th>Fox Total (New)</th>
<th>Groundhog Total (New)</th>
<th>Raccoon Total (New)</th>
<th>Skunk Total (New)</th>
<th>Other Total (New)</th>
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*Other:*

For complete animal rabies data:
http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/Home.aspx

To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):
http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:
http://preparedness.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Public%20Health%20And%20Emergency%20Preparedness%20Bulletins.aspx

National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events?ongoing.jsp

U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/help?dmy&uri=le=wcm%3apath%3a2FAPHIS_Content_Library%2FSA_Our_Focus%2FSA_Animal_Health

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Influenza Report:
http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/SitePages/Home.aspx
DATE:    February 10, 2014

TO:    Local Health Department Health Officers, Rabies Coordinators, Environmental Health Directors, Communicable Diseases Directors

FROM:    Robert A. Myers, Ph.D.
Director, Laboratories Administration

Maria Paz Carlos, Ph.D.
Chief, Division of Virology and Immunology

Kenneth Okogi, M.P.H
Supervisor, Rabies/Zoonotic Diseases Program, Division of Virology and Immunology

RE:    Rabies Antibody Titer (RFFIT) Test Submission Guidelines for Maryland Residents Not Employed by the State or Local Health Departments (LHDs) Effective January 1, 2014

Due to budgetary constraints effective January 1, 2014, the DHMH Laboratories Administration implemented a schedule of charges for Rabies Antibody Titer (RFFIT) test submissions from Maryland residents not employed by the state or local health departments (LHDs) in Rabies/Zoonotic disease control programs or local government animal control agencies.

The fee is $60 for each specimen. The rabies antibody titer (RFFIT) test submission guideline is enclosed and can also be found at http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/rabies.aspx. For additional information, please contact the Rabies/Zoonotic Diseases Program at (410) 767-6177. Thank you.

Enc: Rabies Antibody Titer (RFFIT) Test Submission Guidelines for Maryland Residents Not Employed by the State or Local Health Departments (LHDs) Effective January 1, 2014

cc: Dr. Laura Herrera
Dr. David Blythe
Dr. Lucy Wilson
Dr. Katherine Feldman
Mr. Ken Keys
Dr. Guy Hohenhaus, MDA
Dr. Jo Chapman, MDA
Dr. Thomas Jacobs, MDA
Dr. Cindy Driscoll, DNR
Rabies Antibody Titer (RFFIT) Test Submission Guidelines for Maryland Residents Not Employed by the State or Local Health Departments (LHDs)

**Effective January 1, 2014**

**I. RFFIT COLLECTION KIT**

To request a RFFIT collection kit, contact the DHMH Laboratories Administration Outfit Room at (410)767-6120. Alternatively, a kit request form can be downloaded at [http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/rabies.aspx](http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/rabies.aspx) and completed then faxed to (410)333-5019.

A. The RFFIT collection kit includes the following:
   - Serological Testing DHMH-4677 Form (submission form)
   - Red Top Tube
   - Biohazard Bag (6x9)
   - Bubble Wrap
   - RFFIT Specimen Submission Guideline

B. For RFFIT test specific questions, contact the DHMH Rabies Laboratory at (410)767-6177.

C. The DHMH Laboratories Administration Outfit Room will ship the RFFIT collection kits to the address provided on the Kit Request Form.

D. A healthcare provider authorized to request medical laboratory tests listed below MUST authorize the RFFIT test.

   - M.D. (Doctor of Medicine)
   - D.M.D. (Doctor of Dental Medicine)
   - C.R.N.P (Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner)
   - C.F.N.P (Certified Family Nurse Practitioner)
   - M.S.W.C (Master of Social Work Clinical)

   - D.S.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery)
   - P.A. (Certified Physician Assistant)
   - N.P. (Nurse Practitioner)
   - D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine)
   - D.S.W.C (Doctor of Social Work Clinical)

**II. SPECIMEN SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

For appropriate submission, follow the steps below.

A. On the Serological Testing DHMH-4677 Form (submission form), the name of the healthcare provider authorized to request medical laboratory tests (see list above) MUST be entered in the Test Request Authorized section. Ensure submitter name, address, phone no., and a FAX NO. (fax no. required to receive the test report), are correctly and legibly completed on the submission form. (see completed submission form example attached).

B. Draw the blood using a red top tube. (3-5ml of whole blood is required).

C. Label the red top tube with the following information:
   - Last Name, First Name
   - Date of Birth
   - Collection Date
   - Attach a barcode label located at the bottom of the Serological Testing form to the red top tube.

D. Place the labeled red top tube in the bubble wrap, and then put it in the biohazard bag.

E. Seal the biohazard bag (one specimen per bag).
E. Place the completed Serological Testing DHMH-4677 Form in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.

*Note: Specimens may be stored in the refrigerator (2-8°C), but not more than 3 days before shipping. Inappropriate submissions may result in a delay of testing and or rejection of the submission.*

III. PAYMENT

A. A check for $60 must be enclosed for each specimen submission. If you are submitting more than one specimen, please include a check for the total number of specimens.

B. Make checks payable to the DHMH-Laboratories Administration.

C. The completed check MUST be enclosed with the specimen shipment.

D. Contact DHMH Laboratories Administration Fiscal Unit (410-767-6107) for billing inquiries.

IV. SHIPPING

A. Specimens can be sent to the DHMH Rabies laboratory using the following methods:
   - Local couriers (shipper is responsible for the cost of shipping).
   - Drop-off at the receiving area of the laboratories administration.
   - Drop-off at your local health department. However, you MUST call Ms. Denise Shackleford (410-767-6116) to make initial arrangements and get the information for the drop-off location.
   - An overnight courier such as FEDEX, UPS, or USPS can be used Monday–Thursday only. (Compliance to IATA regulations is required). NOTE: Certified packaging systems are not supplied by the Laboratories Administration. The shipper is responsible for the cost of shipping.

B. Ship specimens in insulated containers with ice packs. DO NOT use wet ice or dry ice. Also, animal rabies-DFA and RFFIT specimens CANNOT be shipped in the same container.

C. Ship to:
   Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratories Administration
   Attention: ACCESSIONING RABIES/RFFIT TITER TESTING
   201 W. Preston St.
   Baltimore, MD 21201

V. TEST REPORT

The test report will be faxed to the fax number provided on the submission form. Please ensure that you provide a functional fax no.

For additional information, please contact the Rabies-Zoonotic Diseases Program at (410) 767-6177.

http://www.dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories/SitePages/rabies.aspx