Rabies Specimens

Courier services for rabies specimens are provided by Quick Courier. Calls placed before 12pm Monday-Thursday will guarantee same-day collection and next-day delivery. The vet clinic will be charged $15.00 for specimens less than 60lb traveling to the PA Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg. Human exposure specimens, heavier specimens, weekend collections and same-day deliveries called in after 12pm will be billed at a higher rate to be determined by Quick Courier at the time of the call. Please remember to properly package and label all specimens. Keep a copy of the sample submission form for the clinic’s records.

Human Exposure Specimens
✓ Prepare and package specimen; The Department of Health lab accepts heads only (except bats). They will not accept large animal heads which must be submitted to the PA Veterinary Laboratory.
✓ Affix an address label:  PA Department of Health Laboratory
              110 Pickering Way
              Exton, PA  19341
✓ Call Quick Courier: 1-800-355-1004 prior to 12pm
✓ You will be asked to establish an account. Quick Courier will be able to quote a price for the service at the time of the call based on your location. The vet clinic will be billed directly by Quick Courier.

Animal Exposure Specimens
✓ Prepare and package specimen
✓ Affix an address label:  PA Veterinary Laboratory
              2305 North Cameron Street
              Harrisburg, PA  17110
✓ Call Quick Courier: 1-800-355-1004 prior to 12pm
✓ Provide the following account code: PAVETE23. The vet clinic will be billed $15 by PADLS.

Proper Packaging of Specimens
The head/animal should be contained within two intact plastic bags. The bags should be sealed individually (Ziploc, twist tie, tape, etc.). Place the bagged specimen in a solid-sided styrofoam cooler along with enough ice packs to preserve the specimen until delivery. Note: Please do not use frozen water ice or dry ice – frozen gel packs only! A copy of the submission form should be included inside the box contained in a separate plastic bag. The cooler should be placed in a well-fitting cardboard box. The box should be taped securely closed with the address label on top.