



Guidance Notes: Submitting samples to APHA for Rabies Serology

The APHA Rabies Laboratory is an OIE Reference Laboratory and an EU-approved laboratory for rabies serology. Rabies testing at APHA is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 (UKAS accreditation number 1769).

Please note incomplete submission forms will result in a delay to testing.

Completing the VLARAB1 submission form

- The form can be found at <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/forms.htm>
- This form should only be used for rabies post vaccination serology in animals.
- It should not be used if there is a suspicion of clinical rabies. In the UK, any suspicion of rabies must be reported to your local APHA Office.
- Use one submission form per animal.
- The test result will not be valid for the Pet Travel Scheme unless the submission form is completed in full and signed by the submitting veterinary surgeon.
- Test reports are sent only to the submitting practice unless otherwise indicated on the submission form. Duplicate reports may subsequently be provided but only with the written consent of the submitting veterinary surgeon.
- The animal's microchip number must be read before the blood is taken
- Please indicate your choice of test. Two tests are available at APHA. The submitting veterinary surgeon is responsible for the choice of test, and should ensure that the reported results comply with the Pet Travel Scheme requirements applicable in the relevant destination country:
 - TC0570 is a full titration test – the result would be reported as an end point rabies antibody titre in IU/ml.
 - TC0712 is a reduced dilution test and is reported as PASS or FAIL only. The report states that a pass represents a rabies antibody titre ≥ 0.5 IU/ml.
- The maximum test turnaround times are 14 working days (TC0712) and 20 working days (TC0570).
- Please indicate your preferred method of payment by either inserting your debit or credit card details or requesting an invoice.

Submitting the samples to APHA

- A minimum of 1ml serum (preferable) or 2ml clotted blood should be sent in a plain tube, marked with the owner's name, animal's name and microchip number.
- Please send the sample(s) with completed submission form(s) in an insulated leak-proof container (IATA packing instructions 650) and label the package with the following:
 1. Canine/feline serum samples - no commercial value
 2. Category 3 Veterinary diagnostic specimens - not restricted.

Additional Requirements for samples submitted from non-EU countries

- Submissions must be accompanied by an import licence (Appendix 1) and labelled as follows:
 1. Canine/feline serum samples - no commercial value
 2. Category 3 Veterinary diagnostic specimens - not restricted.
 3. Packaged in accordance with IATA Packing Instructions 650
 4. Import Licence ITIMP17.0008
 5. Country of origin (your country)

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.



Animal & Plant Health Agency

- Please indicate a maximum value of the goods of \$1. Failure to do so may result in additional importation charges. APHA will not accept any additional charges - these must be paid by the customer.
- A cover letter on headed note paper must also be enclosed, signed by the submitting veterinary surgeon and describing the contents of the package (i.e. number of submitted serum samples per species). The letter must also include a 'Freedom from Disease Declaration' stating the following:
 - i) The serum is not derived from an animal known or suspected to be infected with a pathogen which causes a notifiable disease to which the animal from which the serum is derived is susceptible according to European Regulations* or the Animal Health Regulations of the exporting country; and
 - ii) That the serum does not originate from an animal in a premise or region or zone of a country that is subject to official restrictions due to a notifiable disease to which the animals are susceptible according to European or other National Animal Health Regulations.

*Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 (as amended) on the notification of animal diseases within the Community

Send your completed submission form and sample to:

Rabies Serology/Sample Reception
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Woodham Lane,
New Haw Addlestone
Surrey, KT15 3NB,
United Kingdom

Additional Information

- Visit Defra's website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk> for further information on the Pet Travel Scheme.
- Contact the dedicated APHA PETS Helpline if you have any queries relating to the tests
Tel: ++44(0)1932 357335 Fax: ++44(0)1932 359519 Email: lab.services@APHA.gsi.gov.uk
- For current test prices and additional charges please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/laboratory-test-price-lists>
- APHA may use samples and test data for training, research and surveillance purposes but without compromising client confidentiality.

DATA PROTECTION

For information on how we handle personal data please go to www.gov.uk and search Animal and Plant Health Agency Personal Information Charter

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Authorisation No: ITIMP17.0008

DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

AUTHORISATION FOR THE IMPORTATION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES OF RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLES

European Communities Act 1972

**TRADE IN ANIMALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS REGULATIONS 2011
ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS (ENFORCEMENT) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2013, ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS (ENFORCEMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013, ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS (ENFORCEMENT) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2014**

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, by this authorisation issued under the terms of Paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 of the Trade in Animal and Related Products Regulations 2011 authorises:

Mr C Hadkiss, Chief Executive Officer Weybridge APHA Woodham Lane Addlestone Surrey KT15 3NB	Name and full postal address of importer responsible for consignment
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[Empty box]	Name and full postal address of destination premises (if different from importer)
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Subject to and in accordance with the conditions set out below, the landing in England of:

Whole blood, serum & plasma from cats and dogs, for rabies antibody titre testing.	Product
Any non-EU Country	Countries of origin
All ports and airports in England	Ports of entry
10/01/2019	Expiry Date

Dated: 11/01/2017



Officer of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

