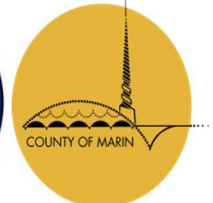


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



Test	Rabies Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA) test
Test Description	<p>The rabies DFA test qualitatively detects rabies virus in the brain tissue of animals demonstrating rabies behavior. The test involves incubating fluorescent antibodies with rabies-suspect brain tissue, allowing the antibodies to bind rabies virus. Antibody and virus complexes can then be visualized as fluorescent apple-green areas in the tissue using a fluorescence microscope. If rabies virus is absent, no fluorescent staining will be seen.</p> <p><i>Note: Animal specimens must be submitted through a county Animal Control Program.</i></p>
Acceptable specimens and specimen collection	<p>The test requires that the animal be euthanized or recently-deceased for testing of the brain tissue. The brain stem and cerebellum regions of the brain must be well preserved and identifiable after necropsy. Deteriorated samples may be deemed unsatisfactory. Animal specimens should be submitted in a sterile, leak-proof biohazard bag or container.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For bats, the entire body may be sent 2. For small mammals (e.g., a mouse), the entire body may be sent although it is preferable to send the head only 3. For medium to large mammals, only the head should be sent. It is recommended to sever the head from the body at the C1 vertebra (top of the spinal column between the spinal column and the skull) 4. For livestock, the entire brain should be removed. If dissected brain is to be sent, it must include a complete cross section of the brain stem and cerebellum (hippocampus may be sent in place of cerebellum only if no cerebellum is available) <p><i>Note: Any tissue fixed in formalin is unsuitable for DFA testing and must be sent to a reference lab. Also, please avoid stapling paperwork to the biohazard bag because staples can compromise the integrity of the bag and can pose a safety risk upon removal.</i></p>
Specimen storage	Specimens should be kept refrigerated at 2–8°C immediately after death or euthanasia. Deteriorating samples do not give accurate results.
Specimen shipping	Transport should be arranged by the shortest possible means. Refrigerated samples should be shipped within 48 hours of

	collection. Samples should be kept cool during transport. If samples cannot be shipped promptly, freezing is acceptable, but not recommended because defrosting can be time consuming, causing testing delays.
CPT code	Not applicable
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule
Result availability (turnaround time)	Results are typically available within 1 day after specimen receipt.