Rabies
Roles and responsibilities for BC veterinarians

Authority

- Rabies is a reportable animal disease to the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in BC under the Reportable and Notifiable Disease Regulation, pursuant to the BC Animal Health Act [2014]. The CVO shares these reports of zoonotic diseases in animals with the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) under an Information Sharing Agreement.

- Rabies is a reportable animal disease to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) under the federal Reportable Diseases Regulations, Health of Animals Act.

Reporting

- The veterinarian fulfills his/her reporting requirements by submitting samples from a suspect animal to the CFIA laboratory for rabies testing.

- Any veterinarian who suspects rabies in an animal (dead or alive) should inform the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) Public Health Veterinarian (PHV) at 778-677-7790 to obtain assistance with risk assessment and management.

- When a veterinarian becomes aware that humans have been exposed to a potentially rabid animal (domestic or wild) they will:
  - explain that rabies is a zoonotic disease ;*and*
  - encourage the client to consult their physician or local public health authority for further guidance ;*and*
  - report the potential human rabies exposure to the health authority where the exposed human resides.

Risk assessment and management

- Guidelines to assess and manage suspect rabies cases can be found at
  http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/rabies

For assistance contact:
Erin Fraser
Public Health Veterinarian
778-677-7790
erin.fraser@bccdc.ca

CDC
BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Rabies in British Columbia

2018 results

Rabies testing is performed at the CFIA Laboratory in Lethbridge, Alberta. www.inspection.gc.ca

Prince George

Kelowna

Kamloops

Lower Mainland

Victoria

★ Positive bat

0 **Dogs and cats positive for rabies**

9 **Bats positive for rabies**

18 **Dogs and cats tested**

90 **Bats tested**

118 **Animals tested**

Bats are the only rabies reservoir in BC. Rabies prevalence in BC bat populations is estimated to be **<0.5%.** However, rates are higher (**13%**) in testing results as rabid bats are more likely to be captured and tested.