

RABIES BLOOD SERUM TEST FOR PET TRAVEL

Rabies Antibody Testing by the
Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization Method



Rabies Laboratory
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Please Read Prior to Submitting FAVN Samples for Testing

A FAVN Report Form is required for each sample submitted for the rabies blood serum test. The original submission form is retained on file at the Rabies Laboratory. The rabies antibody titer results are placed on an adhesive sticker on a copy of the FAVN Report Form – this is the official original FAVN report.

FAVN REPORT FORM INSTRUCTIONS

- Please fill out the [FAVN Report Form](#) on-line prior to printing. If the form is handwritten, all numbers and text should be printed in black ink as clearly and neatly as possible. If unclear, handwritten information is subject to the laboratory personnel's interpretation. If an error on the result label is detected after the test is finalized, and the lab deems it is due to a misinterpretation of the handwriting, the submitting clinic will be required to pay for a new original FAVN report and send a letter explaining the reason for the amended report.
- The completed FAVN Report Form must be signed by the veterinarian. By signing the form, the veterinarian acknowledges that the microchip identification number has been checked and is recorded accurately on the form and that the blood sample tube is labeled with the microchip number. **Due to stringent regulations, personnel at the Rabies Laboratory are not permitted to add or change information on the FAVN Report Form.** Once results are finalized, no changes to the information on the form can be made by the submitting clinic, even in the case of minor clerical errors. Please check spelling, microchip numbers and dates thoroughly before sending.
- The destination field may be left blank if the animal will be traveling to more than one country. It is used by the laboratory to determine where to send the official FAVN report; some destinations require that the original FAVN report be sent directly to them. If your destination changes after the test has been finalized, it will not affect the validity of your results.
- If an owner has two last names, only the **first** one will be on the official FAVN result label.
- If an animal has two microchips, only the **first** number listed will be on the official FAVN result label.

- The vaccination history is for recording the dates of rabies vaccinations received, beginning with the most recent one given.
- The owner should review the completed FAVN Report Form(s) before submitting the sample(s).
- If there are questions or problems with the submission form information or sample(s), we communicate with the submitting clinic primarily via fax or email; please include this information on the FAVN Report Form.

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

- 1-2 mL of serum without preservatives; spun and separated from the clot. If the quantity is not sufficient (QNS) due to leakage, insufficient original volume, or damage in transit, the submitting veterinarian will be notified by fax or email.
- Serum sample must be relatively clear, lipemic or grossly hemolyzed samples cannot be tested.
- Each serum sample in a tube (**even if there is only one in a package**) must be labeled legibly with the animal's microchip number. **We will be unable to accept samples for testing that are not labeled.** If the name of the animal is included on the label, the spelling must match the animal's name on the FAVN Report Form. The label must be attached securely to the sample in such a way that it cannot be separated, erased or become illegible in transit.
- Microchip identification must be implanted prior to blood sample draw and the number must be recorded accurately on the submission form and the sample tube.

Note: A waiting period of at least 21 days between rabies vaccination and blood sampling is advised for optimum antibody response. However, please verify the requirements of the destination country as some have a longer waiting period before sampling the blood.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

- If a serum separator tube was used, the serum should be poured off into a red top 3mL tube (without anticoagulants or additives) to send. The sample tube should be packed in a Ziploc bag with absorbent material.
- Sample tube(s) and the secondary packaging must be capable of withstanding travel conditions without leakage. More than one sample can be sent in a package.
- The FAVN Report Form and any accompanying paperwork should be enclosed in a protective plastic bag and placed inside the package with the sample(s).
- Enough pre-frozen gel packs for the anticipated duration of transit should be placed in the package.
- The use of an overnight or next day carrier is highly recommended. Shipping charges are the responsibility of the shipper; we will not accept packages sent "bill to recipient."

- International clinics only: a copy of the FAVN Report Form should be placed on the outside of the package for custom agents to keep, place the original form inside.
- The Rabies Laboratory is open to accept packages Monday – Friday, 8 am – 5 pm. Send Samples To ([Serology testing - address label](#)):
Rabies Laboratory
Kansas State University
2005 Research Park Circle
Manhattan, KS 66502
U.S.A.
- Samples may be stored up to one week in refrigeration *before shipping*. It is preferable to hold onto samples over the weekend. If it is urgent to send a sample for Saturday delivery, please contact us.
- The rabies laboratory will not track samples shipped to us, please do this yourself to determine when we have received your sample.
- Please check with your shipping company for additional requirements.

PROCESSING TIME

Please check our website for the current turnaround time; it can range from 3-5 weeks or longer after receipt of the sample. Turnaround time will be longer if the test needs to be rerun or a delay occurs that is beyond the laboratory's control. It will also take longer to receive your results if the sample was sent through a reference lab. For this reason we do not recommend that people make concrete travel plans until their test is finalized. **If you are travelling to New Zealand or your travel date conflicts with the current processing time, please contact the Rabies Laboratory before submitting your sample(s).**

The sample receipt date is assigned when packages are opened on Mondays through Fridays. Samples are tested in the order received. Please allow time for regular mail delivery. Faster delivery of original FAVN reports is available by submitting a [Courier Delivery Form](#). Copies of the FAVN report can be emailed or faxed immediately (see following section).

SENDOUT OF OFFICIAL FAVN REPORT

- Results are reported in International Units per milliliter (IU/mL). Generally, a titer of greater or equal to 0.50 IU/mL is required for travel to rabies-free areas.
- The official FAVN report can only be released to the submitting clinic/veterinarian or to a government authority such as the USDA or destination authority. Owners must obtain the official FAVN report from the veterinarian.
- To send the original FAVN report or a copy to a location other than the submitting clinic, written permission from the submitting clinic should be sent with the sample or faxed before the test is finalized.
- Some destinations, such as **Hawaii, Guam and islands in the Caribbean**, require that the

official FAVN report with the adhesive sticker containing the test result be sent directly to their office. In this case, the veterinary clinic submitting the sample will receive a **copy** of the official FAVN report.

- The original FAVN report is sent via regular US Postal Service mail (airmail for clinics located outside the United States). To receive the original FAVN report more quickly, please submit a [Courier Delivery Form](#) with your samples. **This is highly recommended for clinics located in countries where the postal system is slow and/or unreliable.** The Courier Delivery Form offers two options for payment:
 - (1) If you have an account number with a courier company fill out the top portion of the form only. The lab will use your account number to send the original FAVN report, no additional charges will apply.
 - (2) If you do not have an account number with a courier company, the bottom portion of the form (only) should be filled out with credit card information, and the same fee is charged for all destinations. The original FAVN report will be sent using the lab's account number with Federal Express.
- Submitting clinics only: copies of the original FAVN report can be automatically emailed or faxed when finalized. Please submit a [Result Send-Out Form](#) for this service.

BILLING POLICY, CHARGES AND METHODS OF PAYMENT

- If payment is not received or the payment does not clear, the balance due will be billed to the submitting clinic, regardless of who sent the sample or paid for the test (i.e. the pet's owner is not considered the lab's client). Please see our [billing policy](#) for further details. Prices are subject to change; please check the [Cost Of Test](#) for current prices.
- Payments can be made by check (made payable to KDAS), traveler check, money order, credit card (please use [Credit Card Authorization Form](#)), or an electronic bank transfer (see, [Payment Options & Billing Policy](#)). Send payment with the sample, however if you do not want to put personal financial information in the package, you may send payment separately. In the case of the Credit Card Authorization Form, you may fax or email it to the lab a few days after we have received your sample.
- Please include the animal's microchip# for all payments to credit the account of the correct clinic.

CANCELLATION

The FAVN titer test can only be cancelled by written authorization from the submitting clinic/veterinarian faxed to the lab at 785-532-4522. Written authorization must be received prior to sample testing, otherwise charges still apply.

If you have additional questions, please call (785) 532-4455, email rabies@vet.k-state.edu or check our website at www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies.