

Testing animals for rabies

Any dog or cat that dies or is euthanized within 10 days of biting a person must be tested for rabies.

Testing for rabies

The HSA Public Health Laboratory performs rabies tests on domestic or wild animals at risk for rabies. Animals like mice, rats, gophers, rabbits and squirrels are unlikely to transmit rabies. As testing involves examination of the brain tissue, it's necessary to euthanize the animal to perform rabies testing.

Testing Schedule

Animal necropsies for rabies testing are done Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons. The animal must arrive at the laboratory before noon.

Always phone 454-4652 before you bring an animal to the Laboratory. Owned animals must be accompanied by payment for the test. Make checks payable to County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency.

Transport and disposal of animals is done by County of Santa Cruz Animal Control. Call 454-7303 for charges.

Non-owned animals

The Communicable Disease Unit will determine whether and when a stray or wild animal will be tested.

Call 454-4114 before you bring in any stray or wild animals.

HSA Public Health Lab

1080 Emeline Avenue, Bldg. D
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

📞 **454-4652**

... for questions about where and when to bring an animal.

*See also:
Section 3d
Specific Diseases & Conditions
Animal bites and rabies
for information about reporting animal bites.*

Dogs Facts

**Number of dogs in
Santa Cruz County: 90,000**

**Number reported lost
each year: 4,500**

**Dog bites reported in county
each year: 600.**

