



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
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April 1, 2014

Dear Health Care Providers:

Re: Management of Animal Exposures to Prevent Human Rabies

As of April 1, 2014, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will no longer be involved with rabies management. The Manitoba departments of Health, Healthy Living & Seniors (MHHLS), Agriculture, Food & Rural Development (MAFRD) and Conservation & Water Stewardship (CWS) will now collectively coordinate the rabies program as Manitoba Rabies Central.

The CFIA will continue to test animal specimens for rabies. However, sample collection, specimen shipping, and dissemination of testing results to relevant health officials in the affected region will be coordinated centrally by rabies staff from MHHLS, MAFRD and CWS.

- Any animal suspected of transmitting rabies to a human or another animal should be reported by the local/regional MOH or Public Health Nurse to MHHLS.
- Health care providers should now contact MHHLS to request that a sample related to an active rabies investigation be collected and submitted to the CFIA for rabies testing.
- MHHLS can also be contacted for follow up on samples submitted for testing.
- Risk assessment and rabies-related advice can now be obtained by contacting MAFRD and speaking to a provincial veterinarian.

Note that reference to the CFIA in the current protocol should be replaced with the relevant provincial department and phone number as indicated below:

- Manitoba Health, Healthy Living & Seniors – 204-788-8666
- Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Development – 204-470-1108

Sincerely,

“Original Signed By”

Richard Baydack, PhD
A/Director, Communicable Disease Control

“Original Signed By”

Richard Rusk, DVM, MD, CCFP, MPH
Medical Officer of Health