

## **Rabies Antibody Testing by the Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization Method**

The Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralization (FAVN) test is a virus neutralization assay developed to screen animal sera by a standard method for an adequate level of rabies antibodies following vaccination. The FAVN test is required by many rabies-free countries or regions in order for dogs and cats to qualify for a reduced quarantine period prior to entry. Some of these regions are Hawaii, Guam, Japan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Australia, New Zealand, France, and the United Kingdom. Always check with the destination authority to verify pet importation requirements.

A [FAVN Submission Form](#) is required for each sample submitted for rabies antibody titers for export animals. The original submission form is retained on file at the K-State Rabies Laboratory. The rabies antibody titer results are placed on an adhesive sticker on a copy of the [FAVN Submission Form](#) – this is the official FAVN report.

The [FAVN Submission Form](#) can be filled out on-line prior to printing. We strongly recommend either filling out the form on-line and then printing it or using a type-writer to enter information. 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. **Due to stringent regulations, personnel at the K-State Rabies Laboratory are not permitted to add or change information on the form.** The completed FAVN 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 submission form and that the blood sample tube is labeled with either the microchip number or the animal's name and the owner's last name. If an animal has two microchips, the **first** number listed on the submission form is the **only one** that will be on the **official FAVN result label**. The official FAVN report is a photocopy of the FAVN Submission Form with the test result placed on it by adhesive sticker. The official FAVN form 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. Some destinations, such as Hawaii, Guam and islands in the Caribbean, require that the official FAVN report with the sticker containing the test result be sent directly to their office. In this case, the veterinary clinic submitting the sample will receive a photocopy of the official report.

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 so please be sure to include this information on the submission form.

In some cases, reference laboratories and destination websites may have pre-filled FAVN forms with their information as the submitting clinic or the country name already entered on the form. Please make sure you are indeed using that reference laboratory to submit the sample as results and billing inquiries will be sent to them; also, make sure that the client is traveling to the destination listed.

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.

### **Specimen Requirement**

1. 1 ml serum without preservatives; spun and separated from the clot.

Note: Sample tubes must be labeled legibly with either the animal's microchip number or the animal's name and the owner's last name. Serum samples in tubes without appropriate identification cannot be processed and are destroyed upon receipt. 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 (or telephone if no fax or email is provided) that the test cannot be performed.

2. Microchip identification must be implanted prior to blood sample draw and the number must be recorded accurately on the submission form.

Note: A waiting period of at least 21 days between rabies vaccination and blood sampling is advised for optimum antibody response.

### **Shipping Information**

It is essential that each specimen be packaged and shipped properly:

- The primary receptacle, for example, a serum-separator tube or a tube with just serum, must be leak-proof and not contain more than 500 mL (about 15 ounces) or grams.
- There must be absorbent material placed between the primary receptacle and the secondary packaging sufficient to absorb the entire contents of all primary containers within the secondary package. For example, each serum sample tube should be packed in a leak-proof plastic bag with absorbent material.
- The primary receptacle or the secondary packaging must be capable of withstanding, without leakage, an internal pressure differential of not less than 95 kPa (kPA - kilo-Pascal is a measure of force per unit area)(standard atmospheric pressure is about 101 kPa).

- The primary receptacle containing the sample(s) and absorbent material should be placed within the secondary packaging with a sufficient amount of pre-frozen gel packs for the anticipated duration of transit.
- The submission form(s) should be enclosed in a protective plastic bag and placed on the exterior of the primary receptacle but within the secondary packaging.
- 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 recipient.”

Complying with the [regulations set forth by the DOT](#) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) will control or eliminate many health and financial liabilities, both criminal and civil. Other shipping regulations (IATA, CFR 29, 42 and 49, ICAO, and USPS) may also apply, depending on the transport service used. It is the responsibility of the client to ensure that any changes and/or modifications of these rules and regulations are reviewed and implemented in a timely manner.

### **Charges and methods of Payment**

The submitting clinic is responsible for confirming price and submission requirements prior to sending samples. Our requirements, policies and costs are updated on our website at [www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies).

The current charge is \$47.00 USD per FAVN test and may be paid by check (made payable to KDAS), money order or credit card. Please include payment at the time of submission. A delay in testing may occur if payment is not included. Please see the “[payment by credit card](#)” form for charging payment. If payment is not received or the payment does not clear, the balance due will be billed to the submitting clinic.

### **Processing Time**

Results can be expected approximately three weeks after receipt of the sample. The sample receipt date is assigned when packages are opened on Mondays through Fridays by laboratory personnel. Samples are tested in the order received. Reports are mailed via USPS; please allow time for regular mail delivery. Overnight delivery of reports is available by submitting a [Rabies Authorization to Charge Overnight Delivery Form](#) with your Fed Ex or other overnight delivery service account number for billing. When appropriate, a copy of the [official FAVN result form](#) can be faxed upon request.

Send Samples To: K-State Rabies Laboratory ([Serology testing - address labels](#))

Manhattan/K-State Innovation Center  
2005 Research Park Circle  
Manhattan, KS, USA 66502

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](mailto:rabies@vet.k-state.edu) or check our website at [www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/rabies)