



MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Health, CEDEP, C. E. Kord, Animal Control Agencies, Veterinarians
FROM: Richard Steece, PhD, D(ABMM)
Laboratory Director
DATE: May 3, 2021
SUBJECT: Temporary Reassignment of Rabies Processing

Effective Friday, May 7, 2021 (until further notice)

The Tennessee Department of Health – Division of Laboratory Services (TNDH-DLS) in Nashville is experiencing unprecedented shortages in personnel. Specifically, the rabies section is hiring replacement workers and will only be partially functional during the transition.

In this interim, the C. E. Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory will assume the intake and initial processing duties usually performed at the Public Health Laboratory (630 Hart Lane, Nashville 37216). Please send all rabies specimens to C. E. Kord either by Fed Ex or courier to this address:

C. E. Kord Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory
Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ellington Agricultural Center
436 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220

Rabies triage questions will still be handled by CEDEP epidemiologists (615-741-7247) and the TNDH-DLS will continue to perform rabies testing and handle distribution of rabies test results. After personnel issues are resolved, a follow-up memorandum will announce the return of the TNDH-DLS rabies section to full capacity.

For questions regarding this change, please contact Bryan Mason, Immunoserology and Rabies Manager, at 615-262-6350 or Bryan.P.Mason@tn.gov.