



Serum titration of rabies antibodies for domestic carnivores

Information sheet

Pasteur Institute of Tunis

Rabies Laboratory

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- The Rabies laboratory of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis has received authorization from the European Union to carry out the serum assays of rabies antibodies for domestic carnivores traveling abroad (EU Execution Decision 2021/545 of the 26 March 2021) after having passed the international proficiency test 2020 organized by ANSES (https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs/non-eu-countries_en)
- To prepare the procedure for your pet's entry to a rabies-free country (or country requiring a rabies titration for the entry of domestic carnivores into its territory), we will advise to start the procedures with your veterinary surgeon **4 months** before the date of your departure. You can get more information from the embassy of the country concerned.
- Your animal must be equipped with a **microchip** and vaccinated against rabies for **at least 30 days**. The microchip must be implanted **prior to** sample collection.
- The serum titration of rabies antibodies in domestic carnivores is carried out on a sample of **serum (min. 1ml)** or **whole blood on a dry tube (min. 5ml)** using the **FAVN** technique (Fluorescent Antibody Virus Neutralisation test).
- Any sample sent to the laboratory for titration must be **labeled (Microchip number of the animal and Veterinarian name)** and provided **with the information sheet** duly completed and signed **by a registered veterinarian** on the Council of the Order. The information sheet is available on the Pasteur Institute of Tunis website ([LINK](#)).
- In the case of several animals belonging to the same person, each sample of **each** animal must be **labeled** and have its **own file**. Whole blood samples should be kept upright and routed in a cooler (if not an isothermal bag) with ice packs. Serum samples can be sent at room temperature within 24 hours. Identification, packaging, quality and shipment of samples are **the responsibility of the veterinarian requesting the analysis**.
- Any unlabelled sample (see above), without information sheet, not signed by a veterinarian, in insufficient volume, lipemic or hemolyzed **is not accepted**. In the event of non-compliance with the data in the information and label of the sample, the requesting veterinarian must send an explanatory letter signed to correct the error.
- Samples are only received at the **outpatient Department of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis** from 8 a.m. at 3 p.m. (winter schedule). Registration and payment of fees (128.4 Dt, not foreign currency) are also done in this service (cash or check).
- Results are delivered in **7 days** (except holidays or force majeure). In the event of a result below the required threshold, a vaccination booster followed by a new titration must be achieved.
- For any additional information / complaint, you can contact the Rabies laboratory of the Pasteur Institute of Tunis on +216 71 783 022 ext. 425 or 597 from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (winter schedule) or send an email to mariem.handous@pasteur.tn