

## Wobbly Possum Disease

Wobbly Possum Disease is a neurological condition of the brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*). Clinical signs reported for this condition include (but are not exclusively), tremors, ataxia, crouched hindlimb gait, blindness, falling from tree, out in daylight.

In New Zealand a similar condition has been reported and a nidovirus has been demonstrated as a cause of the disease. To date, a cause for the condition in Australia has not been found

### SELECTING ANIMALS FOR TESTING

Primary selection criteria are that the animal is a brushtail possum and must meet at least one or more of the following clinical criteria:

- Ataxia or circling
- Tremors
- Crouched hind limb gait
- Blindness
- Falling from tree or difficulty climbing
- Out in daylight hours
- Docility
- Other neurological signs (please specify)

### SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Collect serum and EDTA blood prior to humane euthanasia.

Whole fresh, or frozen if the animal cannot be sent to the laboratory within 24 hours, dead possums.

### TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

Place the body in a durable plastic bag. The body and any blood samples should be shipped on ice in an esky with the **advice note** attached to the outside of the container in an envelope or clear plastic seal

Please refer to sample submission guidelines <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health-laboratories/animal-health-laboratory/collection-of-samples>)

or

A laboratory submission form is available from [www.nre.tas.gov.au/ahlabsforms](http://www.nre.tas.gov.au/ahlabsforms)

### SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Please contact Wildlife Management Branch  
03 6165 4305 (business hours)

or email [wildlife.reception@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.reception@nre.tas.gov.au)

**prior** to submitting any laboratory samples.

Submit samples to:

Animal Health Laboratory  
NRE Tas  
165 Westbury Road  
Prospect TAS 7250

P: 03 6777 2111

[specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au)