

Interim Algorithm for Veterinarians Caring for a Rat in Need of Testing, Care, or Euthanasia, February 9, 2017

Call from a Rat Owner. Ask the owner about where they purchased the rat and how long ago did they purchase the rat prior to arrival at clinic.

Did owner get a call from public health or a rattery saying that they received a rat from a confirmed Seoul virus facility?

NO

Handling of rat not suspected of being infected

- Rats can carry a number of zoonotic diseases. PPE for veterinarians handling rats not known to have been exposed to Seoul virus: gloves, dust mask/surgical mask, lab coat, and protective eyewear or face shield.
- If a person wants to test their rat for Seoul virus please contact:
 - IDEXX Radil 573-499-5700
4011Discovery Drive
Columbia, Missouri
 - [IDEXX Submission Form](#)
- Serologic testing is recommended because the virus may be shed only intermittently in rats, PCR may not be as useful.

The IDEXX test has been validated at the CDC laboratory.

YES

Consider rat as potentially infected

Steps for potentially infected rats:

- Print document from ISVMA website member area, "Personal protective equipment (PPE) for veterinary personnel when handling rats suspected of Seoul virus infection." **Read this document carefully prior to seeing the rat.**
- The person may want testing or euthanasia of the rat. Call the local health department (LHD) to receive information about how to get N95 mask fit tested.
- Employees who will be working with the rats must be fit tested for N95 masks. Persons with beards or mustaches will not pass the fit testing requirements.
- Call your local health department to discuss testing of rats and other important information.

TIPS

1. Infected rats are asymptomatic
2. Rats are considered to be infected life long, and shed the virus most in the first few months of infection, then intermittently.
3. Contact your local health department. Find who your local health department is here:
 - [Find my Local Health Department](#)
4. Provide safe rodent handling document to client
 - [CDC: Fact Sheet on Healthy Pets](#)
 - [CDC: Key Messages About Pet Rodents](#)
 - [CDC: Small Mammals](#)

