

Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Cadaver Acquisition

For Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation Online (virtual lab), each student must acquire 1 mammal **and** 1 avian carcass. Please note that you **cannot** use rabies vector species (such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats). More information on rabies vector species: [USA](#), [Canada](#). If you are completing the lab and are not under a current wildlife rehabilitation permit please obtain feeder specimens as listed below:

- Mammals: Rat (Size Large or greater), Rabbit
- Birds: Pigeon/Dove, Quail, Chicken (Adult)

Locally Sourced Cadavers

The fastest and cheapest way to find cadavers may be to source them locally. Keep in mind that suitable cadavers might not be available in rural areas. Feeder specimens may be acquired from:

- Large (e.g. PetSmart and Petco) or specialty pet shops may carry feeder species. We advise calling in advance to check availability.
- Wildlife rehabilitators, rehabilitation centers, and falconers often buy feeder species in bulk and may be able to sell cadavers.
- Contact the IWRC or your host (if applicable) for other ideas

Online Cadaver Vendors

Things to Know

Please remember that some of these websites feature animals that have been prepared for dissection. There may be images that make some uncomfortable.

- In some cases, cadaver acquisition may require you to order well in advance. Make sure you confirm the date you will receive the cadavers when purchasing.
- Cadavers that are preserved or frozen are both acceptable. Preserved specimens may be more costly but are usually easier to order. Frozen cadavers must be thawed well in advance

of the lab.

- Preserved specimens should not require additional PPE, but check the website from which you order for recommendations on handling/use/disposal.
- Preserved cadavers may be single, double, or triple injected. This means that the arteries, veins, and hepatic (liver) system have been injected with colored wax for better visualization during dissections. For our purposes this is **not needed**, you just need a plain cadaver.
- **Highlighted vendors sell mammals and birds.**

Suppliers United States

(click the suppliers name to go to their website)

1. [Layne Laboratories Inc.*](#)
2. [Great Lakes Rodent](#) (Serving Michigan only)
3. [Nasco**](#)
4. [Nebraska Scientific](#)
5. [Rodentpro](#)

* This company has a program to give food donations to wildlife rehabilitation facilities

** These specimens arrive in liquid and may have an odor due to preservatives.

Suppliers Canada

(click the suppliers name to go to their website)

1. [Port Credit Pets \(ON\)](#)
2. [Canadian Specialty Exotics \(ON\) – \(avians\) \(Rats\)](#)
3. [CTC Predator Feed \(BC\)](#)
4. [Canadian Mouseman \(AB\)](#)

*Provinces are indicated but all vendors ship Canada-wide.