

Chagas Animal Case Report Form

This form is used for reporting clinically-diagnosed and/or laboratory-confirmed cases of Chagas disease in animals to Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Completed forms should be sent via mail or fax to the Regional Veterinarian or Zoonosis Control Branch.

To complete the form:

The form is largely self-explanatory; however, below are some notes to assist you in completing the form.

Species/Breed: Enter the species and/or breed of animal (i.e. canine or equine and Maltese or Arabian). This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases. We may use this variable to summarize Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

Name: Please provide name of animal. This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases.

Sterilized: Please indicate whether or not the animal has been sterilized (spayed or neutered). This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases.

Age: Please provide age of animal. This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases. We may use this variable to summarize Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

Sex: Please provide gender of animal (M or F). This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases. We may use this variable to summarize Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

County where animal resides: Please record the animal's county of residence. This information, along with other case identifiers, will help identify duplicate cases. We may use this variable to summarize Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

Laboratory: Please report name of laboratory where specimen was tested. This will allow us to gather information on what laboratories are performing Chagas testing across the state.

Test performed and result: Please provide the specific test performed and results. For instance, if an IFA is performed, please provide specific titer. If histopathology is performed, indicate diagnosis. Attached lab reports are helpful. This information will be used by DSHS in case classification.

Diagnosis/Test Date: Please provide date the animal was diagnosed with Chagas or date test was performed. We may use this variable to summarize Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

Compatible Clinical Signs:

Please indicate whether or not the veterinarian has determined that this animal has clinical signs compatible with Chagas disease. This information will be used by DSHS in case classification.

Reporting Veterinarian's Contact Information:

Please provide the reporting veterinarian's information on the form so the Regional Zoonosis Control Staff can follow-up, if needed.

Owner's Information: Please provide the owner's contact information on the form so the Regional Zoonosis Control Staff may investigate the case and educate the owner on risks of Chagas disease.

Information to Aid in Client Educational Efforts Surrounding Chagas Risk (Optional Use):

This part of the Chagas animal case report form will capture data from the case investigation. This section of the form is not obligatory for reporting purposes; however, it is requested that this part be sent if the information is available. This information will assist the Regional Zoonosis Control Staff with the case investigation and education and may be used to describe the epidemiology of Chagas in animals at the end of the reporting year.

Are there Triatomines present where animal is housed/kenned?

Please indicate whether or not these insects are present where the animal is being housed. It may be useful to show the owner a picture of the insect, if unable to do a home visit.

Has any human at this residence tested positive for Chagas disease?

Please indicate whether or not any human living at the residence has tested positive for Chagas disease. This information may be useful to correlate risk for Chagas.

Is there a history of contact with Triatomines?

This information captures whether or not the animal has a known history of contact with the insect (i.e. animal found to be eating the insects).

Is the animal primarily housed outside?

This information captures whether or not the animal is kept outside or inside. If animal is kept outdoors, it may be useful to inquire about lighting.

Does the animal have a history of travel to Latin America?

This information captures where the animal could have been infected.

Are there other animals present at the residence/kennel?

This information captures what other animals share the environment (and may have the same risk).

Have any other animals from this residence/kennel been diagnosed with Chagas disease?

This information captures any other animals currently infected.

Case Classification (DSHS Central Office Only)

Completed case report forms will be sent to Zoonosis Control Branch (DSHS) in Austin, TX, to be classified as "probable" or "confirmed" cases, based on the definitions provided below.

Probable cases are those animals diagnosed by a veterinarian based only on clinical signs.

Confirmed cases are those animals diagnosed by laboratory results. Confirmed cases can be symptomatic or asymptomatic. Data being collected will allow us to separate the confirmed cases as such, should the need arise.