

**Protocol for dealing with sick squirrels during Squirrel Pox outbreak on
Formby National Trust Property 2007**

When out searching for sick squirrels or if you should respond to a call to pick up a sick squirrel then you need the following equipment:

Gloves
Carry case
Towel or blanket to throw over squirrel

If you find a sick squirrel then every effort should be made to catch the squirrel without injury to yourself, if the squirrel is obviously sick but still lively then you may need to set a humane trap or get help with capturing it.

If you are on The Formby National Trust Property then:

Please contact the kiosk on your radio for help.

On capture of a sick squirrel it should be taken to:

Mr Petchy,
Veterinary Surgery,
113 Church Road,
Formby,
L37 3ND,
01704 877145

If it is evening or weekend and Mr Petchy is not contactable then the squirrel should be taken to:

Stapeley Grange RSPCA Wildlife Centre
London Road
Stapeley
Nantwich
CW5 7JW
Please contact: Andrew Kelly: 01270 628755

Willing volunteers to transport squirrels to Stapeley Grange are:

Sue Farquarson on 01704 870050
Rachael Parks on 01704 879787
Or call the RSPCA to ask for an Animal Collection Officer to transport
the squirrel on: 0870 5555999

If the squirrel is dead before you get to Mr Petchy then it needs to go for post mortem immediately.

If you are trained to do so then take a blood sample and mouth swab and put the carcass, swab and blood sample into two zip lock bags.

If you are not trained then put the carcass in to two zip lock bags then into a box with your gloves, towel and everything you touched the squirrel with.

The squirrel should then be sent with details of where it was found, date and any information on the signs of death to:

Julian Chantrey,
Veterinary Pathology
Leahurst Veterinary School,
Chester High Road,
Neston,
CH64 7TE

Either via: **1) Andrew Brockbank at the National Trust: 01704 878591,**
who can deliver directly

2) Fiona Whitfield at The Wildlife Trust on 0151 9203769 or
07894 096046.

Who can deliver via the internal post at Liverpool University on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday before 11am.

3) Put the squirrel directly in the post to the address above.

The squirrel should be packaged in two zip lock bags and then in a substantial jiffy bag. The bag should be labelled PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMEN and TO BE REFRIGERATED then sent guaranteed next day delivery.

If you cannot do any of these straight away then the squirrel should be refrigerated, ideally in a nominated fridge not used for food, a nominated cool box or in a cool dark place.

If you do take a squirrel to the vets or send for post mortem please let

Fiona know on 0151 9203769 or 07894 096046.

If you should come in to contact with a dead squirrel then please disinfect yourself afterwards.