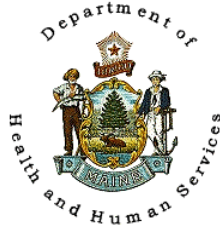# MAINE
PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
(Formerly Bureau of Health)
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Phone 1-800-821-5821 / Fax 207-287-7443

2013PHUPD002

TO: **Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices, City and County Health Departments, Tribal Health Directors, Maine Law Enforcement**

FROM: Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: **Maine Animal Rabies 1st Quarter Update (January 1 – March 31, 2013)**

DATE: Thursday, April 18, 2013

TIME: 12:45pm

PAGES: 3

PRIORITY: Low

Animal Rabies 1st Quarter Update
January 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013

     Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides quarterly updates on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update provides information on rabid animals for the first quarter of 2013 (Jan. 1-Mar. 31). Results are based on animals submitted and tested at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) following exposure to a human or domestic animal. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance for rabid animals with no human or domestic animal exposure (Table 1). The number of rabid animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies in Maine. See HETL's website for regularly updated counts at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/rabies/rabies2013.htm. Figures 1 and 2 show additional animal rabies data for Maine.

Rabies Management:
- Rabies is spread when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from an infected animal's saliva or neural (brain or spinal cord) tissue.
- Prompt recognition and reporting of exposures to medical professionals, public health, and local animal control officers is critical to ensure appropriate management and assessment of the need for post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Refer to the updated Maine Rabies Management Guidelines 2012, 3rd Edition when assessing a possible exposure.
- Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax at 1-800-293-7534.
- For more information, see the Maine CDC rabies website at www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies.

Table 1. Animals positive for rabies virus by county, town and species in Maine – HETL and USDA*, 2013

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jan 1–Mar 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Mar 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						**0**	**0**
Aroostook						**0**	**0**
Cumberland						**0**	**0**
Franklin						**0**	**0**
Hancock						**0**	**0**
Kennebec						**4**	**4**
	Belgrade			1			
	China			1			
	Litchfield		2				
Knox						**0**	**0**
Lincoln						**0**	**0**
Oxford						**0**	**0**
Penobscot						**4**	**4**
	Chester				1 fox, red		
	Dixmont		1				
	Milford			2			
Piscataquis						**0**	**0**
Sagadahoc						**0**	**0**
Somerset						**2**	**2**
	Hartland		1				
	Skowhegan		1				
Waldo						**0**	**0**
Washington						**0**	**0**
York						**2**	**2**
	Kennebunk		1				
	Wells		1				
Species Total		**0**	**7**	**4**	**1 fox, red**		
Maine Total						**12**	**12**

*Denotes an animal that was tested by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services for supplemental surveillance that did not come in contact with a human or domestic animal.

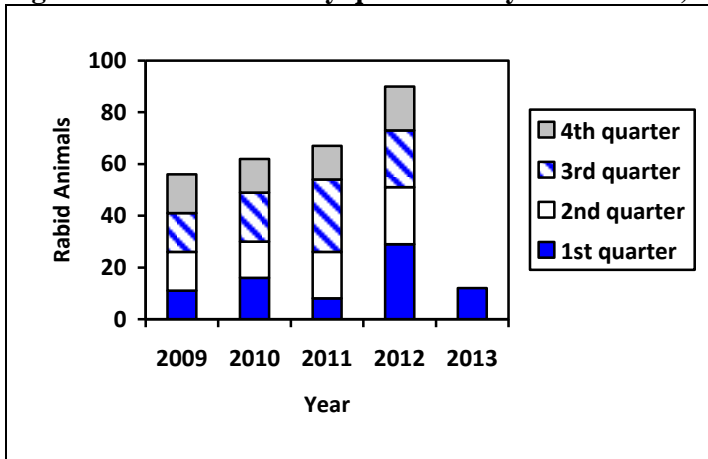**Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2009-2013**

Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-March 31, 2013 (N=12)