

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE



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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
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SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update (April 1 – June 30, 2013)

DATE: Monday, July 29, 2013

TIME: 11:00am

PAGES: 3

PRIORITY: Low

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Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update April 1, 2013 – June 30, 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 second quarter of 2013 (Apr. 1-Jun. 30). 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, game wardens, 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.

All three rabid bats in 2013 were big brown bats.

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 (Apr 1–Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Jun 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						1	1
	Lewiston		1				
Aroostook						0	0
Cumberland						4	4
	Standish		1				
	Windham		1	1	1 red fox		
Franklin						1	1
	Farmington			1			
Hancock						2	2
	Mariaville		2				
Kennebec						0	4
Knox						0	0
Lincoln						1	1
	Southport		1				
Oxford						1	1
	Hiram				1 red fox		
Penobscot						0	4
Piscataquis						1	1
	Dover-Foxcroft	1					
Sagadahoc						1	1
	Richmond	1					
Somerset						0	2
Waldo						2	2
	Northport		1				
	Waldo			1			
Washington						0	0
York						2	4
	Eliot			1			
	York	1					
Species Total		3	7	4	2		
Maine Total						16	28

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

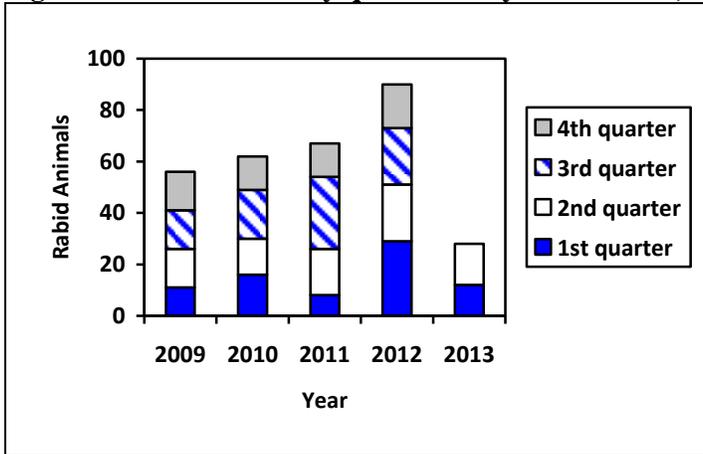


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-June 30, 2013 (N=28)

