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MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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###PHINFO###

TO: Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices Required

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SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 3rd Quarter Update – July 1-September 30, 2012

DATE: 10/15/2012

TIME:

PAGES: 3

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Animal Rabies 3rd Quarterly Update

July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2012

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides quarterly updates on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update may be used as an educational tool to inform pet owners and other members of the public about the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.

This update provides information on rabid animals for the third quarter of 2012 (July 1-Sept 30). Results are based on animals submitted to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for rabies testing following contact with a human, domestic animal, or livestock (Table 1). USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance of rabid animals with no human, domestic animal, or livestock exposure (Table 2). The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies in Maine because results are based only on those animals submitted for testing due to contact with a human or domestic animal. See HETL's rabies website for regularly updated rabies data at www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2012.htm.

Rabies is transmitted when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva or other potentially infectious material, such as neural tissue. Prompt recognition and reporting of possible exposures to medical professionals, public health officials, and local animal control officers is critical to ensure appropriate management and assessment of the need for post-exposure prophylaxis. Please refer to the [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, 2012

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jul 1–Sept 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Sept 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						2	3
	Auburn	1					
	Turner		1				
Aroostook						0	0
Cumberland						1	10
	Harrison		1				
Franklin						0	0
Hancock						0	0
Kennebec						4	13
	Albion				1 dog		
	Clinton		1				
	Readfield				1 fox		
	Winthrop				1 cat		
Knox						0	7
Lincoln						1	2
	Bristol		1				
Oxford						1	4
	Hiram			1			
Penobscot						2	7
	Alton			1			
	Corinna			1			
Piscataquis						0	2
Sagadahoc						3	5
	Bath				1 fox		
	Bowdoinham		1				
	Richmond				1 cat		
Somerset						0	2
Waldo						4	6
	Morrill		1	1			

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County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jul 1–Sept 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Sept 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
	Prospect			1			
	Winterport			1			
Washington						0	0
York						4	11
	Eliot			1			
	N. Waterboro				1 fox		
	Saco	1					
	York	1					
Species Total		3	6	7	3 foxes 2 cats 1 dog		
Maine Total						22	72

Table 2. Animals positive for rabies virus by species in Maine – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 2012

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jul 1–Sept 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Sept 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Species Total		0	2	0	0		
Maine Total						0	2

The following figures show animal rabies data for Maine.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2008-2012

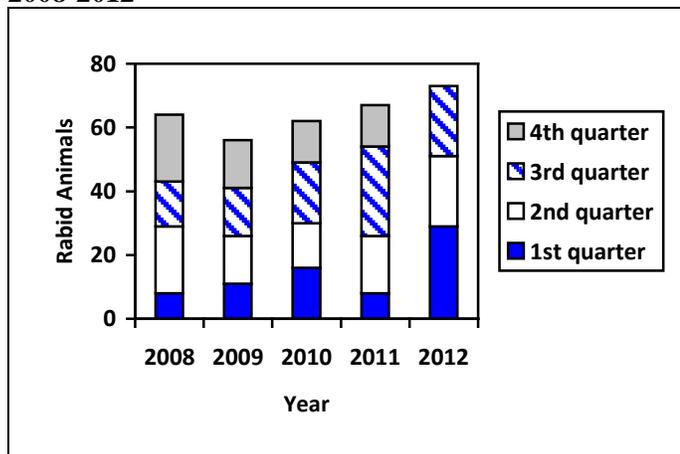


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-September 30, 2012 (N=74)

