

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

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###PHINFO###

**TO:** Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices, City and County Health Departments, Maine Law Enforcement- Local PD, State Police Required

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Public Health Director  
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update – July 1-September 30, 2013

**DATE:** 10/24/2013

**TIME:**

**PAGES:** 3

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**Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**July 1, 2013 – September 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 is for the third quarter of 2013 (July 1-Sept. 30).

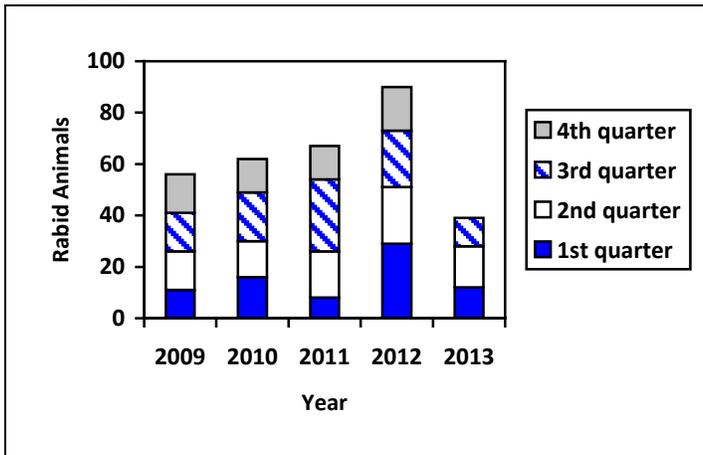
Results are based on animals submitted and tested at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) following exposure to a human or domestic animal. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance for rabid animals with no human or domestic animal exposure (Table 1). The number 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.

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

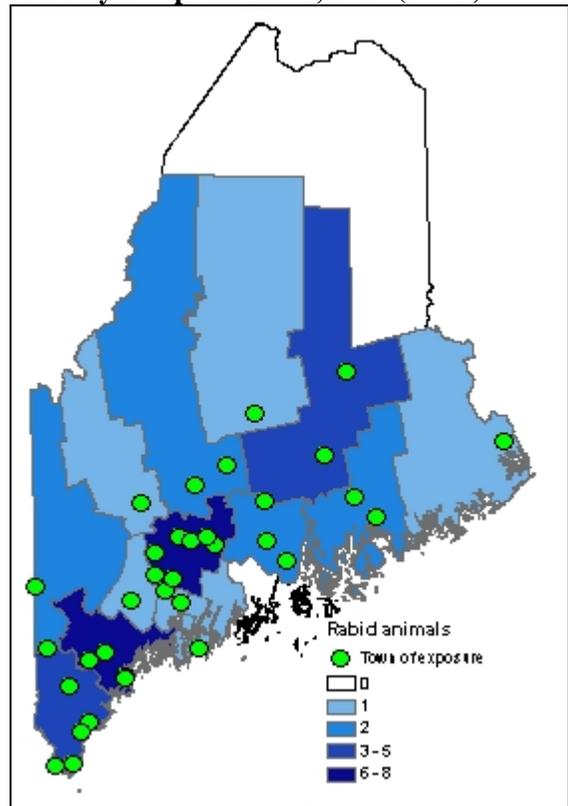
County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (July 1–Sept. 30)	Year-to-Date Total (July 1-Sept. 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
<b>Androscoggin</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Aroostook</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cumberland</b>						<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
	Portland	2					
	South Portland				1 gray fox		
	Windham			1			
<b>Franklin</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hancock</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Kennebec</b>						<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
	Monmouth		1				
	Sidney		1				
	Vassalboro		1				
	Wayne			1			
<b>Knox</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Oxford</b>						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
	Stow		1				
<b>Penobscot</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sagadahoc</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Somerset</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Waldo</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Washington</b>						<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	Robbinston			1			
<b>York</b>						<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
	Waterboro			1			
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>Maine Total</b>						<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>

**Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**July 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013**

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



**Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-September 30, 2013 (N=39)**



**Interesting points from this report:**

- The count of animal rabies cases is lower this quarter than in past years.
- Both rabid bats from the second quarter were big brown bats.
- The rabid skunk from Washington County was the first rabid animal in that county in six years. Variant testing was performed at Federal CDC and was confirmed as Mid-Atlantic raccoon rabies variant. USDA APHIS Wildlife Services in Maine notified New Brunswick due to the proximity to the border.

**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.
- Refer to the updated [Maine Rabies Management Guidelines 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#) to assess exposures.
- Report possible human or domestic animal exposures to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.
- Prompt recognition and reporting of exposures to medical professionals, public health, game wardens, and local animal control officers is critical to ensure appropriate medical and veterinary management.
- For more information, see the Maine CDC rabies website at [www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).