

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



*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*

###PHINFO###

TO: City and County Health, Division of Animal and Plant Health, County EMA, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Law Enforcement, Maine Emergency Medical Services, Maine Animal Control Association, Division of Infectious Disease, Division of Public Health Systems, Municipal Offices, Regional Resource Centers

FROM: Dr. Christopher Pezzullo, Chief Health Officer

SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update – April 1-June 30, 2015

DATE: August 25, 2015

TIME:

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Animal Rabies 2nd Quarterly Update
April 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015

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 second quarter of 2015 (April 1-June 30).

Animals are 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 rabies in animals with no human or domestic animal exposure. Table 1 lists animals testing positive for rabies from HETL and USDA during the second quarter of 2015.

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/rabies2015.htm>. Figures 1 and 2 show additional animal rabies data for Maine.

Table 1. Animals positive for rabies virus during the second quarter of 2015 (N=9)

	Date tested	Species	Town	County	Lab
1	4/17/15	Bat	Buxton	York	HETL
2	4/23/15	Raccoon	Rome	Kennebec	HETL
3	4/28/15	Raccoon	Fairfield	Somerset	HETL
4	4/30/15	Raccoon	Fairfield	Somerset	HETL
5	5/11/15	Bat	Gardiner	Kennebec	HETL
6	5/15/15	Raccoon	Cherryfield	Washington	USDA
7	6/05/15	Raccoon	Farmingdale	Kennebec	HETL
8	6/11/15	Raccoon	Millinocket	Penobscot	USDA
9	6/24/15	Bat	Acton	York	HETL

Table 2. Animals tested for rabies by county, year-to-date (January 1-June 30), HETL and USDA (N=13)

County	# positive HETL	# positive USDA	# tested HETL	# tested USDA	% positive
Androscoggin	0	0	9	0	0%
Aroostook	0	0	1	98	0%
Cumberland	0	0	35	0	0%
Franklin	0	0	1	0	0%
Hancock	0	0	3	0	0%
Kennebec	5	0	31	0	16.1%
Knox	0	0	8	0	0%
Lincoln	0	0	2	0	0%
Oxford	0	0	8	0	0%
Penobscot	1	1	18	20	5.3%
Piscataquis	0	0	1	3	0%
Sagadahoc	0	0	11	0	0%
Somerset	3	0	6	3	33.3%
Waldo	0	0	7	0	0%
Washington	0	1	4	12	6.3%
York	2	0	18	0	11.1%
Total	11	2	163	136	4.3%

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Summary from this report:

- In the second quarter of 2015, 11 animals tested positive for rabies. Last year, there were 12 rabid animals in the second quarter. The 5-year median of animal rabies in the second quarter is 16.
- In 2015 year-to-date, 13 animals tested positive for rabies out of 299 total animals tested, for a percent positive of 4.3%. Last year, there were 16 rabid animals at this time out of 169 total animals tested at HETL, for a percent positive of 9.5%. Nationally, 6.2% of animals tested positive for rabies (2013 data).
- Only wild animals – raccoons (6), skunks (2), and big brown bats (3) – tested positive for rabies in 2015. Positive animals were from four counties, including Kennebec (5), Penobscot (1), Somerset (3), and York (2).

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, 3rd 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, including on how to prevent exposures, see the Maine CDC rabies website at www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2011-2015

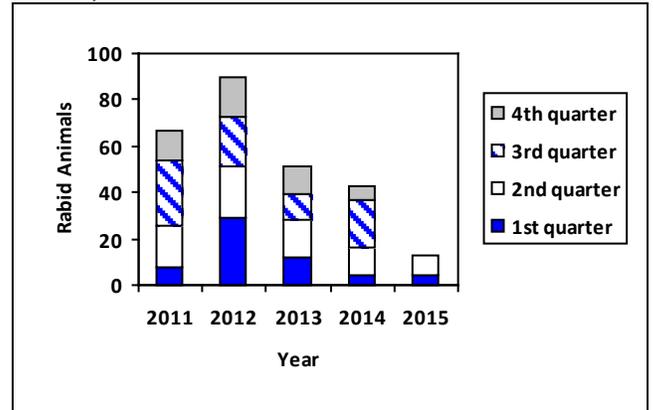


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, HETL and USDA, January 1-June 30, 2015

