

# 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*

---

**2014PHINFO004**

**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, Municipal Offices, Regional Resource Centers, HETL

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Public Health Director

**SUBJECT:** **Maine Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update – July 1-September 30, 2014**

**DATE:** October 30, 2014

**TIME:** 4:00pm

**PAGES:** 4

**PRIORITY:** Low

**Confidentiality Notice:** This fax message is intended for the exclusive use of the individual or entity identified above. It may contain information, which is privileged and/or confidential under both state and federal law. If you are not notified otherwise, any further dissemination, copying, or disclosure of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmittal in error, please immediately notify us at 287-8478 and return the original transmission to us by mail at Key Bank Plaza, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor-286 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04333, without making a copy. Your cooperation in protecting confidential information is greatly appreciated.

**Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014**

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 2014 (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/rabies2014.htm>. Figures 1 and 2 show additional animal rabies data for Maine.

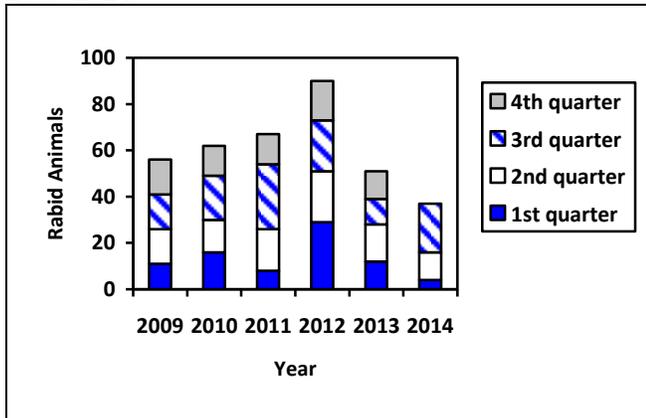
**Table 1. Animals positive for rabies virus by county, town and species in Maine – HETL and USDA, 2014**

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (July 1–Sept. 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan. 1-Sept. 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
	Auburn		1	1	2 fox, gray		
	Turner			1			
Aroostook						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cumberland						<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>
	Casco				1 fox, gray		
	Harrison			1			
	Naples				1 fox, gray		
	North Yarmouth		1				
	Portland				1 fox, red		
	Scarborough				1 fox, gray		
	Sebago		1				
Franklin						<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
	Farmington			1			
Hancock						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Kennebec						<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
	Albion			1			
	Farmingdale		1				
	Oakland		1				
	Sidney		1				
	Winthrop				1 cat		
Knox						<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	Washington			1			
Lincoln						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Oxford						<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
	Lovell				1 fox, red		
	Porter	1					
Penobscot						<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
	Old Town			1			
	Orrington				1 cow		
Piscataquis						<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Sagadahoc						<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
	Bath	1					
	Richmond		1				
Somerset						<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

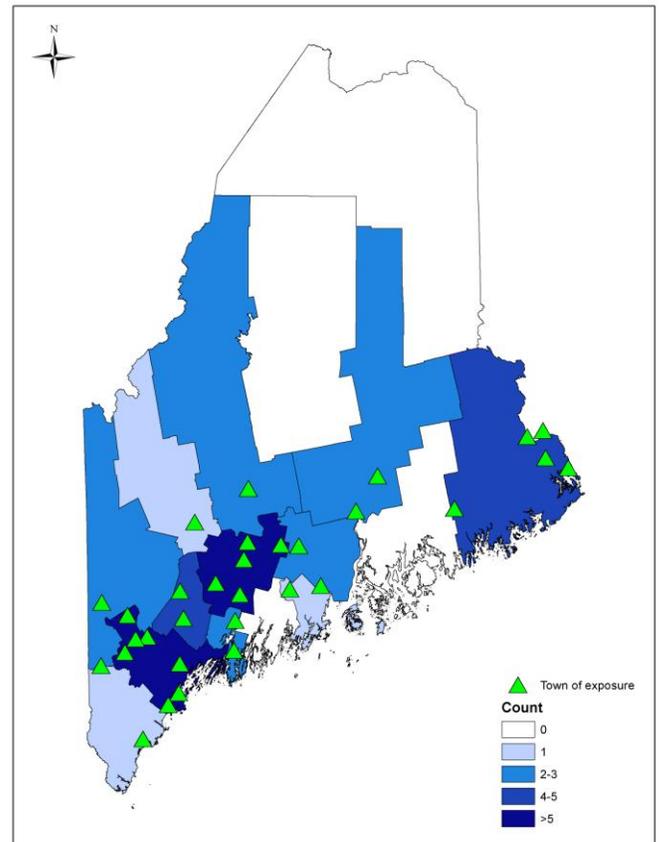
## Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

	Cornville		1	1	1 woodchuck		
Waldo						1	2
	Freedom	1					
	Lincolnville		1				
Washington						3	5
	Baileyville		1				
	Calais			1			
	Charlotte		1				
	Deblois		1				
	Pleasant Point		1				
York						1	1
	Kennebunk	1					
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1 cat 1 cow 5 fox, gray 2 fox, red 1 woodchuck</b>		
<b>Maine Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>37</b>

**Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2009-2014**



**Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-September 30, 2014 (N=37)**



**Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014**

**Key points from this report:** Increase in animal rabies in Washington County

- As of September 30, there were five reports of animal rabies from Washington County; 4 raccoons and 1 skunk tested positive.
- Historically, Washington County has a low incidence of rabies.
- Last year, there was one rabid skunk from Robbinston in Washington County.
- Prior to that, in Washington county, there were two rabid skunks in 2007, one rabid raccoon in 2002, 11 rabid animals in 2001 (four raccoons, four skunks, two foxes, and one bobcat), and three rabid animals in 2000 (two raccoons and one fox).
- No rabid animals were reported in Washington County from 1994-2000, from 2003-2007, or from 2008-2013.
- It is unclear what is causing this increase in animal rabies, although it could be part of a cyclical trend.
- Given the proximity to the Canadian border, all reports of animal rabies in Washington County are reported to USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, whose mission is to prevent cross-border transmission.

**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, including on how to prevent exposures, see the Maine CDC rabies website at [www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).