

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: Animal Care; Public Health Required

FROM: Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director

SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 1st Quarter Update – Jan. 1 – March 31, 2010

DATE: 4/29/2010

TIME:

PAGES: 2

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, 6th Floor-286 Water Street, Augusta, ME 04333, without making a copy. Your cooperation in protecting confidential information is greatly appreciated.

Animal Rabies 1st Quarterly Update

January 1 – March 31, 2010

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

This update is for rabid animals for the first quarter of 2010 (January 1 – March 31, 2010). Results are based on animals submitted for testing due to contact with a human or domestic animal (Table 1). USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance of rabid animals with no human or domestic animal exposure (Table 2). The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies. Visit the Maine CDC rabies prevention website for more information, including rabies testing data updated regularly: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2010.htm>.

Rabies is transmitted only 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. Please refer to the Maine Rabies Management Guidelines (<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/documents/RabiesManagementGuide2005.pdf>) when assessing a possible exposure. Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax 1-800-293-7534.

Table 1: Animal rabies by county, town and species – Maine, January 1 – March 31, 2010

County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)	
Androscoggin	Lewiston			2		3
	Turner			1		
Cumberland	Portland		1			2
	Westbrook				1 (Gray Fox)	
Hancock	Surry			1		1
Kennebec	Sidney		2			2
Knox	Washington		1			1
Lincoln	Wiscasset		1			1
Oxford	Hebron				1 (Red Fox)	1
Somerset	Cornville		1			3
	Madison		1			
	Norridgewock		1			
York	Hollis		1			2
	Waterboro		1			
Species Total			10	4	2	
Maine Total						16

Table 2: Animal rabies by county, town and species – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services*, January 1 – March 31, 2010

County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)	
Aroostook	Sherman Mills			1		1
Species Total				1		
Maine Total						1

The following chart shows the number of animals that tested positive for rabies in the first quarters of 2007-2010, as a percentage of the total number of animals that tested positive for rabies each year in Maine.

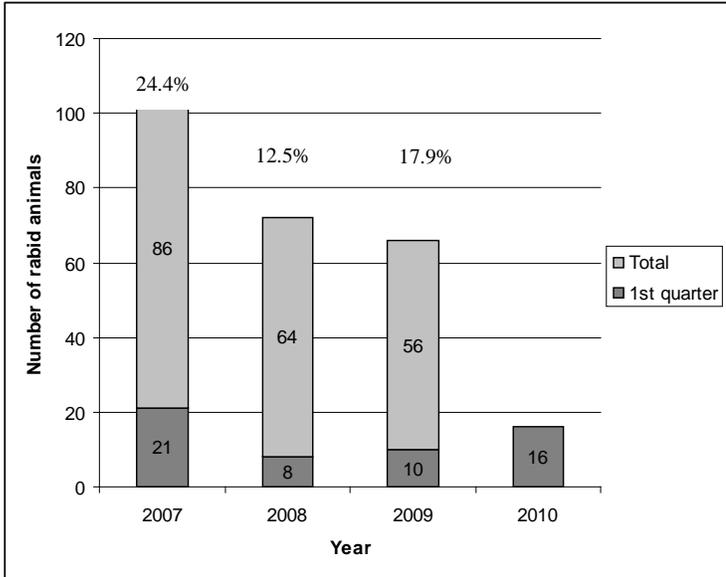


Chart 1: Rabid animals in the first quarter and as a percentage of the total by year, in Maine

The following map shows the distribution of rabid animals in Maine for the first quarter of 2010.

