

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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###PHINFO###

TO: Animal Care; Public Health Required

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SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update – January 1 – June 30, 2010

DATE: 7/16/2010

TIME:

PAGES: 3

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Rabies Alert: A feral cat tested positive for rabies on July 12 in Lewiston, Androscoggin County. This is the first cat to test positive for rabies in Maine in 2010. One cat tested positive for rabies in Maine in 2009, in Oxford County. Precautions include avoiding wild animals and vaccinating pets for rabies.

Animal Rabies 2nd Quarterly Update January 1 – June 30, 2010

The 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 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 provides reports on rabid animals through the second quarter of 2010 (January 1 – June 30). Results are based on animals submitted to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) 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. See the updated Maine CDC rabies website for more information, including regularly updated rabies data: 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 (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 at 1-800-293-7534.

Table 1. Current quarter and year-to-date animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine – HETL, 2010

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Apr 1–Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Jun 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Androscoggin	Auburn	1					
	Lewiston			2			
	Turner			1		4	
Cumberland	Gray		1				
	New Gloucester			1			
	North Yarmouth		1				
	Portland		1				
	Scarborough				1 (Red Fox)		
	Westbrook				1 (Gray Fox)	6	
Hancock	Surry			1	0	1	
Kennebec	Hallowell			1			
	Manchester					1 (Gray Fox)	
	Sidney		2				
	Vassalboro		1				
	Winslow				1 (Woodchuck)	6	
Knox	Washington		1		0	1	
Lincoln	Boothbay		1				
	Bristol		1				
	Wiscasset		1			3	
Oxford	Buckfield					1 (Gray Fox)	
	Hebron					1 (Red Fox)	

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Apr 1–Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Jun 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Penobscot	Bangor	1				1	1
Somerset	Cornville		1				
	Madison		1				
	Norridgewock		1				
	Starks				1 (Red Fox)	1	4
York	Hollis		1				
	Waterboro		1			0	2
Species Total		2	15	6	7	14	30
Maine Total						14	30

Table 2. Current quarter and year-to-date animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 2010

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Apr 1–Jun 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Jun 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Aroostook	Sherman Mills			1			
			2			2	3
Species Total		0	2	1	0	2	3
Maine Total						2	3

The following figures show animal rabies data from HETL.

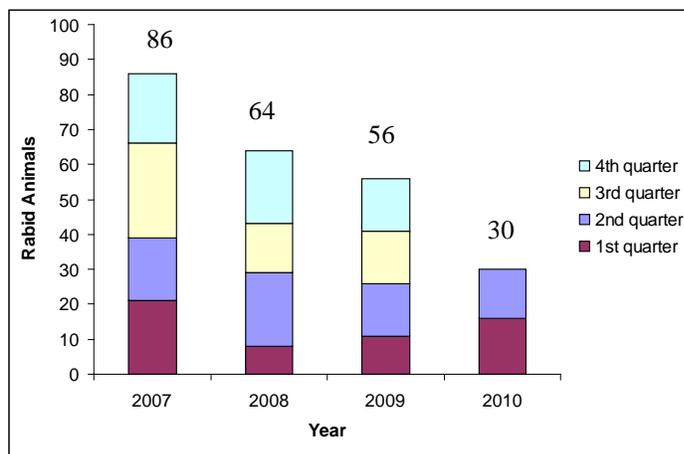


Figure 1. Animal rabies HETL data by quarter and year, Maine, 2007-2010

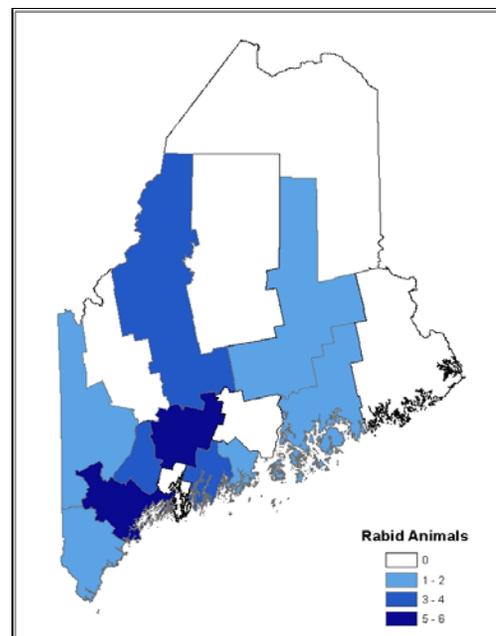


Figure 2. Animal rabies HETL data by county, Maine, January 1–June 30, 2010