

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

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**###PHINFO###**

**TO:** Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices Required

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director  
Dr. Stephen Sears, State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Update – October 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

**DATE:** 1/20/2012

**TIME:**

**PAGES:** 3

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## Animal Rabies 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Update October 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011

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 inform pet owners and other members of the public about the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.

This update provides information on rabid animals for the fourth quarter of 2011 (October 1-December 31). Results are based on animals submitted to the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for rabies testing following contact with a human, domestic animal, or livestock (Table 1). USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance of rabid animals with no human, domestic animal, or livestock exposure (Table 2). The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies in Maine because results are based only on those animals submitted for testing due to contact with a human, domestic animal, or livestock. See HETL's rabies website for regularly updated rabies data at [www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2011.htm](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2011.htm).

Rabies is transmitted 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 to ensure appropriate management and assessment of the need for post-exposure prophylaxis. Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax at 1-800-293-7534. For more info, see the Maine CDC rabies website at [www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).

Table 1. Animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine - HETL, 2011

County	Town	Animal Species					Current quarter (10/1-12/31)	Year (1/1-12/31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Fox	Other		
Androscoggin							<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
	Greene				1			
	Lewiston	1	2					
Aroostook							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Cumberland							<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>
	Brunswick		1*			1 horse		
	Cape Elizabeth				2			
	Cumberland			1				
	Gorham		1					
	New Gloucester					1 sheep*		
	North Yarmouth		1					
	Raymond		4(2*)					
	Scarborough		1					
	Standish		2					
	Steep Falls		1					
	Windham		1		3(1*)			
Franklin							<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
	Carthage		1					
	Jay		2					
	New Sharon				1			
Hancock							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Kennebec							<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
	Benton		1					
	China		1					
	Clinton		1					
	West Gardiner					1 bobcat		
	Winthrop				1*			
Knox							<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
	Port Clyde	1						
	Rockport		1	1				
	Union					1 sheep		
Lincoln							<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
	Bristol		1					
	Jefferson		1					

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County	Town	Animal Species					Current quarter (10/1-12/31)	Year (1/1-12/31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Fox	Other		
	Nobleboro			1				
Oxford							1	8
	Buckfield			2				
	Denmark		1					
	Dixfield	1						
	Fryeburg		1					
	Mexico					1 cat*		
	Oxford			1				
Waterford					1			
Penobscot							1	3
	Argyle Twp.		1					
	Hampden		1					
	Hermon			1*				
Piscataquis							0	0
Sagadahoc							1	3
	Bath			2(1*)				
	Topsham	1						
Somerset							1	4
	Canaan			1				
	Madison		1*					
	Norridgewock			1				
	Smithfield		1					
Waldo							2	4
	Liberty		1					
	Palermo			1*				
	Swanville		1*					
	Waldo			1				
Washington							0	0
York							1	4
	Cornish				1			
	Hollis				1*			
	Kennebunk					1 cat		
	York	1						
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Maine Total</b>							<b>13</b>	<b>66</b>

\*Denotes an animal that tested positive for rabies during the current quarter

Table 2. Animal rabies by species in Maine – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 2011

County	Town	Animal Species					Current quarter (10/1-12/31)	Year (1/1-12/31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Fox	Other		
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Maine Total</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The following figures show animal rabies data for Maine.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2007-2011

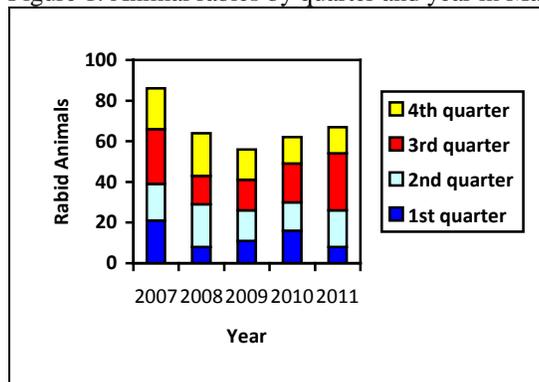


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-December 31, 2011 (N=66)

