

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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TO: Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, Maine Municipal Offices, City and County Health Departments, Maine Law Enforcement- Local PD, State Police Required

FROM: Dr. Sheila Pinette, Public Health Director

SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update – April 1-June 30, 2014

DATE: 7/29/2014

TIME:

PAGES: 3

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Animal Rabies 2nd Quarterly Update
April 1, 2014 – June 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 second quarter of 2014 (Apr. 1-June 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 (Apr 1–June 30)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–June 30)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						0	0
Aroostook						0	0
Cumberland						2	4
	Naples				1 fox, gray		
	Scarborough				1 fox, gray		
Franklin						0	1
Hancock						0	0
Kennebec						2	2
	Sidney		1				
	Winthrop				1 cat		
Knox						0	0
Lincoln						0	0
Oxford						0	0
Penobscot						2	2
	Old Town			1			
	Orrington				1 cow		
Piscataquis						0	0
Sagadahoc						1	1
	Richmond		1				
Somerset						3	3
	Cornville		1	1	1 woodchuck		
Waldo						0	1
Washington						2	2
	Charlotte		1				
	Deblois		1				
York						0	0
Species Total		0	5	2	1 cat 1 cow 2 fox, gray 1 woodchuck		
Maine Total						12	16

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

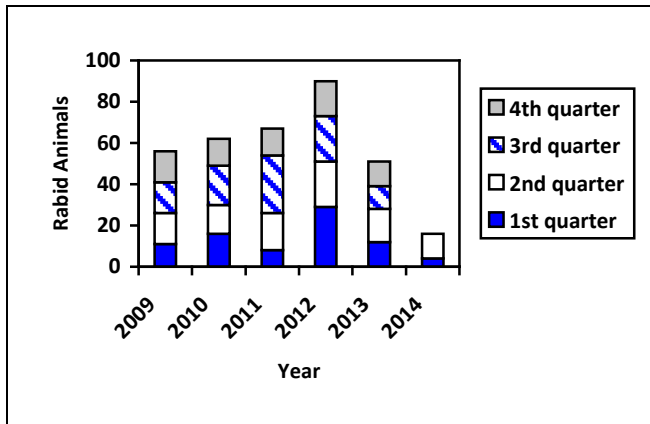
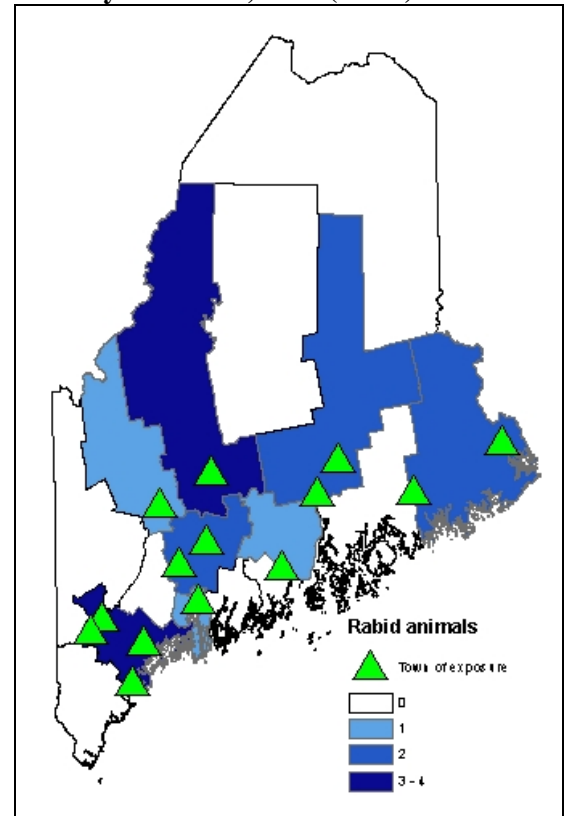


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-June 30, 2014 (N=16)



Key point from this report: Increase in animal rabies in Washington County

- As of June 30, there were two reports of animal rabies in raccoons from Washington County.
- Historically, Washington County has a low incidence of rabies.
- Last year, there was one rabid skunk from Robbinston in Washington County.
- Prior to that, 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, 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.