

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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FROM: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 2nd Quarter Update – April 1-June 30, 2016

DATE: July 20, 2016

TIME:

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Animal Rabies 2nd Quarterly Update
April 1, 2016 – June 30, 2016

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 2016 (April 1-June 30).

Animals are 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 rabies in animals with no human or domestic animal exposure. Table 1 lists animals testing positive for rabies from HETL and USDA during the second quarter of 2016. Table 2 lists the number animals tested for rabies by county in 2016. 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/rabies2016.htm>. Figures 1 and 2 show additional animal rabies data for Maine.

Table 1. Animals positive for rabies virus during the second quarter of 2016 (N=19)

	Date tested	Species	Town	County	Lab
1	4/04/16	Raccoon*	Machias	Washington	USDA
2	4/11/16	Raccoon	Augusta	Kennebec	HETL
3	4/14/16	Raccoon	Augusta	Kennebec	HETL
4	4/19/16	Bat Big Brown	Pittsfield	Somerset	HETL
5	4/25/16	Raccoon	Augusta	Kennebec	HETL
6	4/28/16	Raccoon	Gardiner	Kennebec	HETL
7	5/10/16	Raccoon*	Weston	Aroostook	USDA
8	5/10/16	Fox Gray	Kittery	York	HETL
9	5/16/16	Skunk	West Gardiner	Kennebec	HETL
10	5/24/16	Bat Big Brown	Yarmouth	Cumberland	HETL
11	5/27/16	Raccoon	Winthrop	Kennebec	HETL
12	6/01/16	Raccoon	Kittery	York	HETL
13	6/07/16	Bat Big Brown	Portland	Cumberland	HETL
14	6/15/16	Woodchuck	Greenwood	Oxford	HETL
15	6/15/16	Skunk	Starks	Somerset	HETL
16	6/16/16	Raccoon	Lincolntonville	Waldo	HETL
17	6/17/16	Raccoon	Waterville	Kennebec	HETL
18	6/22/16	Raccoon	Windham	Cumberland	HETL
19	6/28/16	Skunk	Paris	Oxford	HETL

*Preliminary positive; not yet confirmed by Federal CDC

Table 2. Animals tested for rabies by county, 2016, HETL and USDA

County	# positive HETL	# positive USDA	# tested HETL	# tested USDA	% positive
Androscoggin	5	0	18	0	27.8%
Aroostook	0	2 (1*)	2	156	1.3%
Cumberland	6	0	50	0	12.0%
Franklin	0	1*	3	8	9.1%
Hancock	0	0	1	1	0%
Kennebec	9	0	24	0	37.5%
Knox	0	0	3	0	0%
Lincoln	1	0	3	0	33.3%
Oxford	4	0	13	0	30.8%

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Penobscot	1	1	19	81	2.0%
Piscataquis	0	0	2	15	0%
Sagadahoc	0	0	3	0	0%
Somerset	3	1*	7	1	50.0%
Waldo	1	0	5	0	20.0%
Washington	1	1*	7	69	2.6%
York	3	0	17	0	17.6%
Out of state (NH)	0	0	2	0	0%
Total	34	6	179	331	7.8%

*Preliminary positive; not yet confirmed by Federal CDC

Summary from this report:

- **In the second quarter of 2016, 19 animals tested positive for rabies – 17 at HETL and 2 at USDA. In 2015, there were only nine rabid animals in the second quarter.**
- The 5-year median of animal rabies in the second quarter is 16 rabid animals.
- Only wild animals – raccoons (11), skunks (3), bats (3), fox (1), and woodchuck (1) – tested positive for rabies in the second quarter of 2016. Positive animals were from six counties, with the highest number of positives in Kennebec County (7).
- USDA reported one preliminary positive from Aroostook County (raccoon). However, no positives have been detected in Aroostook County north of USDA’s Oral Rabies Vaccine bait zone.

Rabies Management:

- Rabies is spread when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or 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. **Maine CDC and Maine DACF are working on a 2016 update that will be released this fall.**
- 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 in ensuring 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.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2012-2016

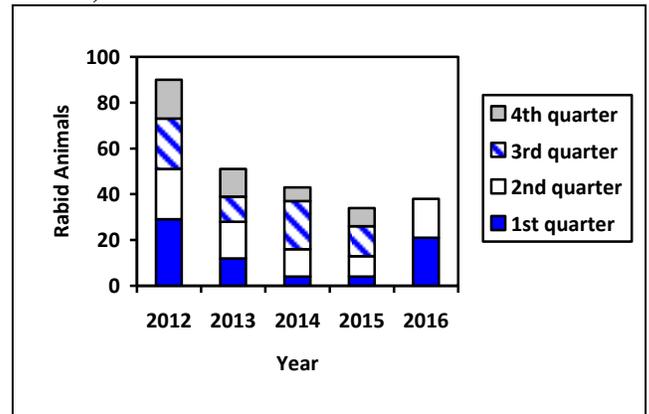


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, HETL and USDA, 2016

