MAINE
PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
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2012PHUPD002

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 1st Quarter Update – January 1 - March 31, 2012**

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PRIORITY: **Low**

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Animal Rabies 1st Quarterly Update
January 1, 2012 – March 31, 2012

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 first quarter of 2012 (January 1-March 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 or domestic animal. See HETL's rabies website for regularly updated rabies data at http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/rabies/rabies2012.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. Please refer to the Maine Rabies Management Guidelines when assessing a possible exposure (www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/documents/RabiesManagementGuide2005.pdf). Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax at 1-800-293-7534.
For more information, see the Maine CDC rabies website at www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies.

Table 1. Animal rabies by county, town and species in Maine – HETL, 1/1/2012 – 3/31/2012

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jan 1–Mar 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Mar 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Androscoggin						**1**	**1**
	Auburn		1				
Cumberland						**5**	**5**
	Bridgton		1				
	Harpswell				1 cat		
	Harrison			1			
	Pownal			1			
	Raymond		1				
Kennebec						**4**	**4**
	Augusta			1			
	Mount Vernon		1				
	Pittston		1				
	Washington		1				
Knox						**5**	**5**
	Port Clyde			1			
	Rockland		1				
	Thomaston		2				
	Warren			1			
Lincoln						**1**	**1**
	Newcastle		1				
Oxford						**3**	**3**
	Dixfield			1			
	Hartford		1				
	Peru			1			
Penobscot						**3**	**3**
	Alton			1			
	Corinna			1			
	Dexter		1				

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County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jan 1–Mar 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1-Mar 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Piscataquis						**1**	**1**
	Milo			1			
Somerset						**2**	**2**
	Cambridge		1				
	Skowhegan		1				
York						**3**	**3**
	Arundel		1				
	Hollis				1 gray fox		
	Kennebunk		1				
Species Total		**0**	**16**	**10**	**2**		
Maine Total						**28**	**28**

Table 2. Animal rabies by species in Maine – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, 2012

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jan 1-Mar 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan 1–Mar 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other (Species)		
Franklin						**1**	**1**
	Carthage		**1**				
Species Total		**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**		
Maine Total						**1**	**1**

The following figures show animal rabies data for Maine.

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2008-2012

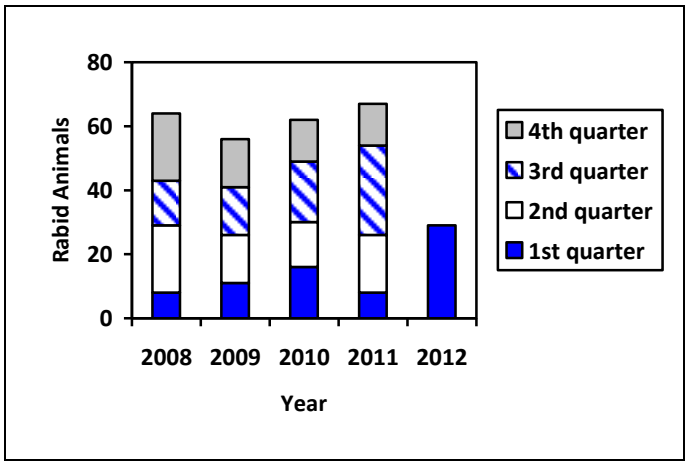
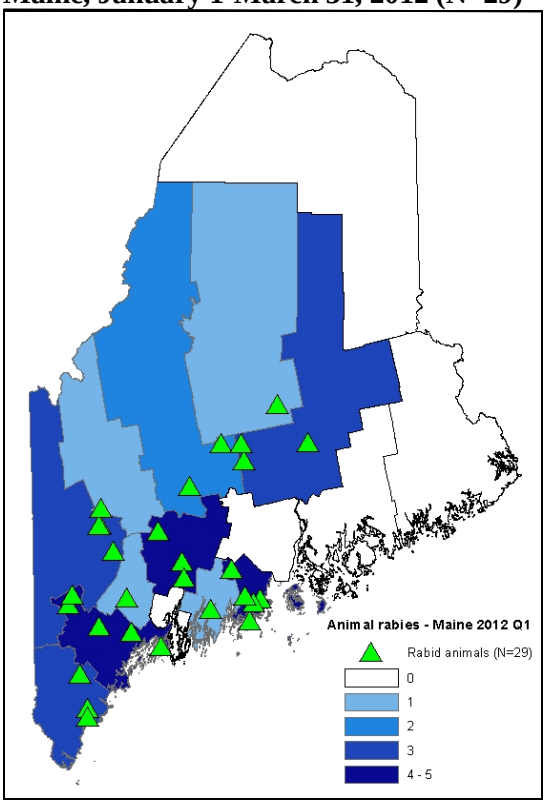
Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-March 31, 2012 (N=29)