Animal Rabies  
Maine Surveillance Report | 2020

Reported Rabid Animals:

- **Raccoon**: 23 cases
- **Skunk**: 10 cases
- **Fox**: 24 cases
- **Cat**: 1 case

In Maine, lab-confirmed rabid animals were involved* in:
- **45** domestic animal exposures
- **15** human exposures
- **7** domestic animal & human exposures

*Four animals were not involved in any exposures

**Laboratory:**
- **584** animals submitted to HETL for testing
- **253** animals submitted July to September (43% of total)
- **117** animals submitted in August (20% of total)
- **561** animals tested
- **490** negative results
- **23** animals not tested*

* Reasons include improper packaging, delays in shipment, contamination of the specimen, questionable exposures, etc.

**Trends:**
- Total reported cases decreased compared to the previous year.
- Cases reported in 15 out of 16 counties.
- Highest number of rabid animals from Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties.

For more information visit:  
www.maine.gov/dhhs/rabies  
www.cdc.gov/rabies

Rabies PEP must be reported within 48 hours of administration to Maine CDC
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Monthly Distribution of Rabid Animals:

Human Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

130 Maine residents received rabies PEP
- 12% decrease from 2019

11 Out of state residents received rabies PEP

5% Patients were previously vaccinated for rabies

- 53% of patients were female
- Median age of 39
- Age range of 2 months-88 years
- 84% of patients were White
- (16% race unknown)

Exposure Types:
- 52% of exposure types were bites

Exposure Sites:
- 26% of exposure sites were hand/fingers

Prevention:
- Keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all dogs, cats, and ferrets
- Feed pets indoors and keep garbage cans and other food sources tightly secured
- Avoid contact with wildlife or any animals you do not know
- After an animal exposure:
  - Clean all wounds with soap and water for 15 minutes
  - Call your local Animal Control Officer or Game Warden
  - For human exposures, contact your healthcare provider
  - For pet & livestock exposures, contact your veterinarian