

# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

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**TO:** City and County Health, Division of Animal and Plant Health, County EMA, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Law Enforcement, Maine Emergency Medical Services, Maine Animal Control Association, Division of Infectious Disease, Division of Public Health Systems, Municipal Offices, Regional Resource Centers

**FROM:** Dr. Christopher Pezzullo, Acting Chief Health Officer

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update – January 1-March 31, 2015

**DATE:** June 1, 2015

**TIME:**

**PAGES:** 3

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**Animal Rabies 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015**

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 first quarter of 2015 (January 1-March 31).

Results are based on animals submitted and tested at the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) following exposure to a human or domestic animal (Table 1). USDA APHIS Wildlife Services performs supplemental surveillance for rabid animals with no human or domestic animal exposure. USDA did not detect any rabies-positive animals year-to-date.

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/rabies2015.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, 2015**

County	Town	Animal Species				Current Quarter Total (Jan. 1–Mar. 31)	Year-to-Date Total (Jan. 1-Mar. 31)
		Bat	Raccoon	Skunk	Other		
Androscoggin						0	0
Aroostook						0	0
Cumberland						0	0
Franklin						0	0
Hancock						0	0
Kennebec						2	2
	Albion			1			
	Winthrop		1				
Knox						0	0
Lincoln						0	0
Oxford						0	0
Penobscot						1	1
	Hermon			1			
Piscataquis						0	0
Sagadahoc						0	0
Somerset						1	1
	Fairfield		1				
Waldo						0	0
Washington						0	0
York						0	0
<b>Species Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>Maine Total</b>						<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

## Animal Rabies 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Update January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015

Figure 1. Animal rabies by quarter and year in Maine, 2011-2015

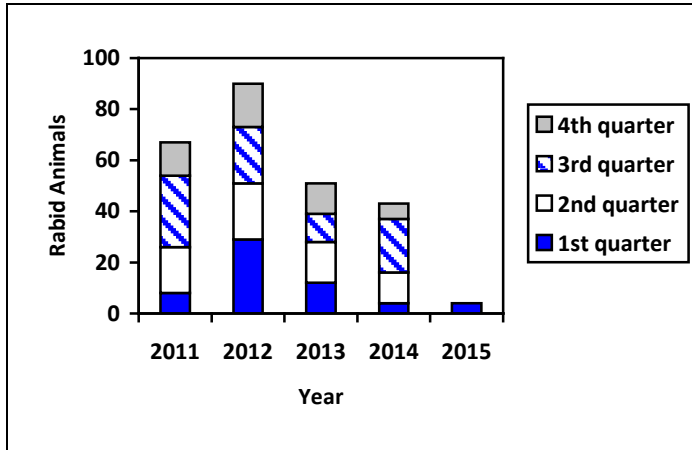
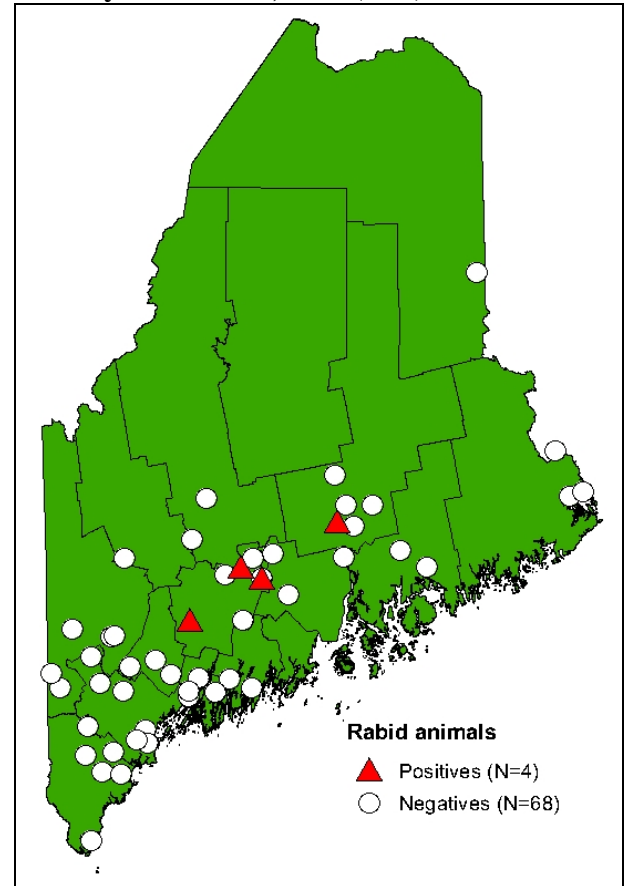


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, January 1-March 31, 2015 (N=4)



### Key points from this report:

- Of the four rabid animals in the first quarter of 2015, two were from Kennebec County.
- So far, only wild animals – raccoons and skunks – tested positive for rabies this year as a result of coming in contact with a person or a domestic animal.
- There were four rabid animals in the first quarter of 2014 as well.
- Remember that Maine law requires rabies vaccinations for all cats, even indoor cats, and dogs (Maine Statute 7§MRSA 3916).

### 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies).