

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION



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FROM: Dr. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist

SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 1st Quarter Update – January 1-March 31, 2016

DATE: May 24, 2016

TIME:

PAGES: 3

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Animal Rabies 1st Quarterly Update January 1, 2016 – March 31, 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 first quarter of 2016 (January 1-March 31).

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 first 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 first quarter of 2016 (N=21)

	Date tested	Species	Town	County	Lab
1	1/12/16	Raccoon	Livermore Falls	Androscoggin	HETL
2	1/12/16	Raccoon	Rumford	Oxford	HETL
3	1/12/16	Skunk	Parsonsfield	York	HETL
4	2/01/16	Raccoon	Sebago	Cumberland	HETL
5	2/01/16	Skunk	Waldoboro	Lincoln	HETL
6	2/16/16	Raccoon	Levant	Penobscot	HETL
7	2/16/16	Skunk	Patten	Penobscot	USDA
8	2/18/16	Raccoon	Weston	Aroostook	USDA
9	2/26/16	Raccoon	New Portland*	Somerset	USDA
10	3/02/16	Raccoon	Meddybemps	Washington	HETL
11	3/07/16	Raccoon	Durham	Androscoggin	HETL
12	3/10/16	Raccoon	New Vineyard*	Franklin	USDA
13	3/18/16	Raccoon	Augusta	Kennebec	HETL
14	3/21/16	Raccoon	New Gloucester	Cumberland	HETL
15	3/24/16	Skunk	West Paris	Oxford	HETL
16	3/28/16	Skunk	Auburn	Androscoggin	HETL
17	3/28/16	Raccoon	Greene	Androscoggin	HETL
18	3/28/16	Raccoon	Livermore	Androscoggin	HETL
19	3/28/16	Raccoon	Gorham	Cumberland	HETL
20	3/30/16	Raccoon	Benton	Kennebec	HETL
21	3/30/16	Skunk	Skowhegan	Somerset	HETL

*Preliminary positives; 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	11	0	45.5%
Aroostook	0	1	2	75	1.3%
Cumberland	3	0	18	0	16.7%
Franklin	0	1	0	3	33.3%
Hancock	0	0	0	1	0%
Kennebec	2	0	9	0	22.2%
Knox	0	0	2	0	0%

**Animal Rabies 1st Quarterly Update
January 1, 2016 – March 31, 2016**

Lincoln	1	0	2	0	50%
Oxford	2	0	7	0	28.6%
Penobscot	1	1	10	67	2.6%
Piscataquis	0	0	0	6	0%
Sagadahoc	0	0	0	0	0%
Somerset	1	1	3	1	50%
Waldo	0	0	3	0	0%
Washington	1	0	3	61	1.6%
York	1	0	8	0	12.5%
Total	17	4	78	214	7.2%

Summary from this report:

- In the first quarter of 2016, 21 animals tested positive for rabies – 17 at HETL and 4 at USDA.
- In 2015, there were only four rabid animals in the first quarter.
- The 5-year median of animal rabies in the first quarter is eight rabid animals.
- Only wild animals – raccoons (15) and skunks (6) – tested positive for rabies in the first quarter of 2016. Positive animals were from 11 counties, with the highest number of positives in Androscoggin County (5).
- USDA reported one positive from Aroostook County (raccoon), but it was captured south of the Oral Rabies Vaccine 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 summer.**
- 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

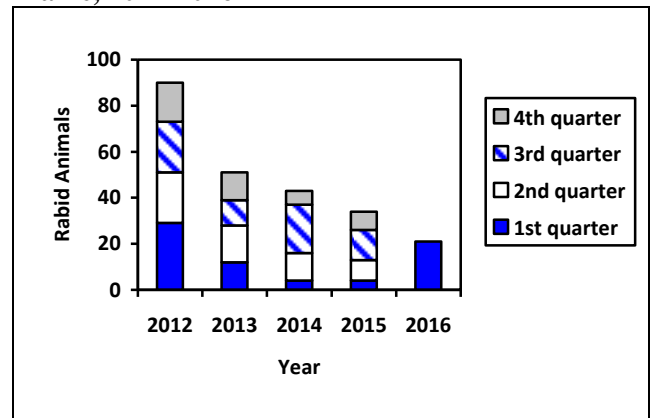


Figure 2. Animal rabies by county in Maine, HETL and USDA, 2016

