

# 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. Siiri Bennett, State Epidemiologist

**SUBJECT:** Maine Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Update – July 1-September 30, 2016

**DATE:** December 1, 2016

**TIME:**

**PAGES:** 3

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**Animal Rabies 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Update**  
**July 1, 2016 – September 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 third quarter of 2016 (July 1-September 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 third 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 third quarter of 2016 (N=24)

Date collected	Species	Town	County	Lab
7/01/2016	Cat	Litchfield	Kennebec	HETL
7/01/2016	Bat Big Brown	North Berwick	York	HETL
7/04/2016	Raccoon	Brownville	Piscataquis	USDA
7/11/2016	Skunk	Union	Knox	HETL
7/12/2016	Raccoon	Stetson	Penobscot	HETL
7/13/2016	Bat Big Brown	Gray	Cumberland	HETL
7/25/2016	Bat Big Brown	Fairfield	Somerset	HETL
7/27/2016	Fox	Monmouth	Kennebec	HETL
8/08/2016	Raccoon	Jay	Franklin	HETL
8/08/2016	Skunk	Whitefield	Lincoln	HETL
8/08/2016	Raccoon	Hermon	Penobscot	HETL
8/16/2016	Bat Big Brown	Harrison	Cumberland	HETL
8/16/2016	Skunk	Cornish	York	HETL
8/23/2016	Raccoon	Hartford	Oxford	HETL
8/31/2016	Cow	Whitefield	Lincoln	HETL
9/06/2016	Skunk	Gardiner	Kennebec	HETL
9/08/2016	Skunk	Newburgh	Penobscot	HETL
9/19/2016	Skunk	Jay	Franklin	HETL
9/26/2016	Skunk	Limington	York	HETL
9/27/2016	Skunk	Jefferson	Lincoln	HETL
9/28/2016	Skunk	Monmouth	Kennebec	HETL
9/28/2016	Bat Big Brown	Naples	Cumberland	HETL
9/30/2016	Raccoon	Bowdoinham	Sagadahoc	HETL
9/30/2016	Skunk	Stacyville	Penobscot	USDA

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	27	0	18.5%
Aroostook	0	2	3	230	0.9%
Cumberland	9	0	101	0	8.9%
Franklin	2	1	15	21	8.3%
Hancock	0	0	9	1	0%

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Kennebec	13	0	72	0	17.8%
Knox	1	0	8	0	12.5%
Lincoln	4	0	16	0	25.0%
Oxford	5	0	22	0	21.7%
Penobscot	4	2	54	109	3.7%
Piscataquis	0	1	3	26	3.4%
Sagadahoc	1	0	15	0	6.7%
Somerset	4	1	10	5	33.3%
Waldo	1	0	8	0	22.2%
Washington	1	1	12	93	1.9%
York	6	0	34	0	17.1%
Out of state (NH)	0	0	3	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>7.1%</b>

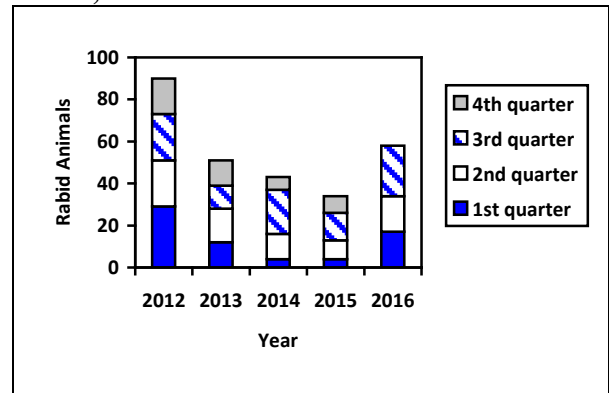
**Summary from this report:**

- In the third quarter of 2016, 24 animals tested positive for rabies – 22 at HETL and 2 at USDA. In 2015, there were only 13 rabid animals in the third quarter.
- The 5-year median of animal rabies in the third quarter is 21 rabid animals.
- Two domestic animals tested positive for rabies in the third quarter, including one cat and one cow.
- Positive animals were from 11 counties, with the highest number of positives, four each, in Kennebec and Penobscot counties.

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#) to assess exposures. Maine CDC and Maine DACF are working on a 2016 update that will be released late 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](http://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**

