Case Information:

76 Animals tested positive at HETL  
24.6% Increase from 2017

Exposure Characteristics:

40% of rabid animals (30) were raccoons

In Maine, confirmed* rabid animals were involved in:

47 domestic animal exposures  
18 human exposures  
8 domestic animal & human exposures

* No exposures identified for three cases involving a confirmed rabid animal

Laboratory:

- 602 animals submitted to HETL for testing
- 570 animals tested (95% of total submissions)
- 494 negative results (87% of total tested)
- 32 animals not tested^  

^ Reasons for not testing animals include improper packaging, delays in shipment, contamination of the specimen, questionable exposures, etc.

Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

- 152 patients received or were recommended for rabies PEP (96% began treatment after an exposure)  
- 41% increase from 2017

A case from 2018:

In the summer of 2018, an otter emerged from the water onto a beach and began chasing some beach goers, including children. Marine Patrol captured the otter to submit it for rabies testing after the otter bit a person. The otter tested positive for rabies virus and the person exposed by the otter received rabies PEP.

Prevention:

- Vaccinate dogs and cats (even if indoor)  
- Avoid contact with wildlife or any animal you do not know  
- After an animal bite:
  - Clean wounds with soap and water  
  - Call your local ACO or Game Warden  
  - Speak to your provider for treatment recommendations

For more information visit:

www.maine.gov/dhhs/rabies
www.cdc.gov/rabies