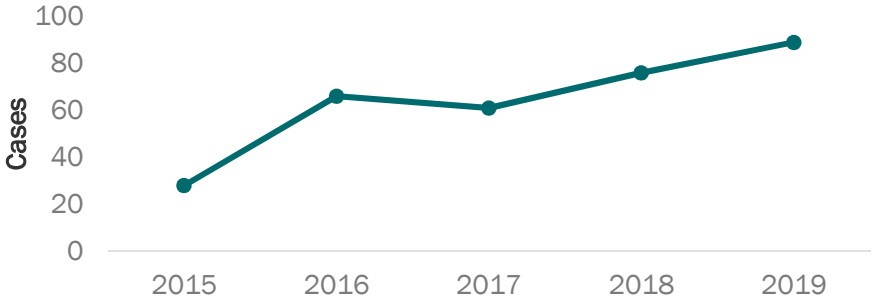
Animal Rabies

Maine Surveillance Report | 2019

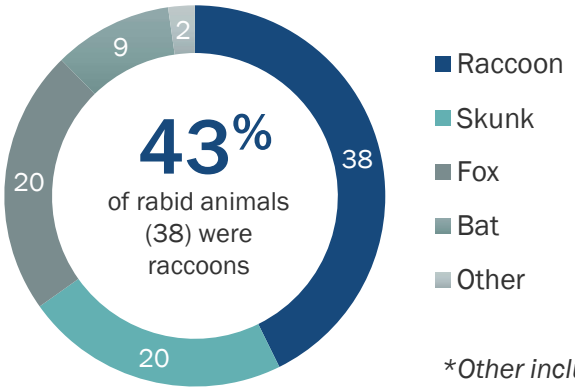
Case Information:

89 Animals tested positive at HETL

17.1% Increase from 2018



Reported Rabid Animals:



**Other includes one ferret and one woodchuck*

In Maine, lab-confirmed rabid animals were involved in:

57 domestic animal exposures

23 human exposures

9 domestic animal & human exposures

Laboratory:

644
animals submitted to HETL for testing

324
animals submitted July to September
(50% of total)

174
animals submitted in August
(27% of total)

612
animals tested

523
negative results

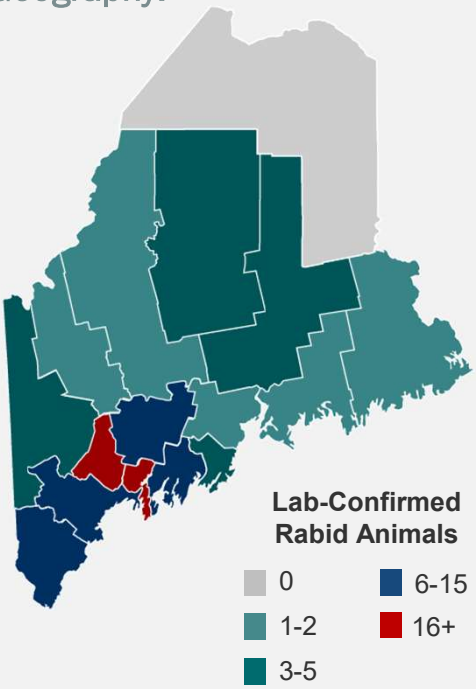
32
animals not tested*

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

Animals Tested in 2019:

Bats	Minks
Beavers	Moles
Bobcats	Muskrats
Cats	Opossums
Cows	Porcupines
Coyotes	Raccoons
Dogs	Sheep
Ferrets	Skunks
Foxes	Squirrels
Goats	Weasels
Horses	Wolf-hybrids
Llamas	Woodchucks

Geography:



Trends:

- Highest number of animal rabies cases reported in Maine since 2012.
- Cases reported in 15 out of 16 counties.
- Highest number of rabid animals from Sagadohoc County.

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 by calling 1-800-821-5821

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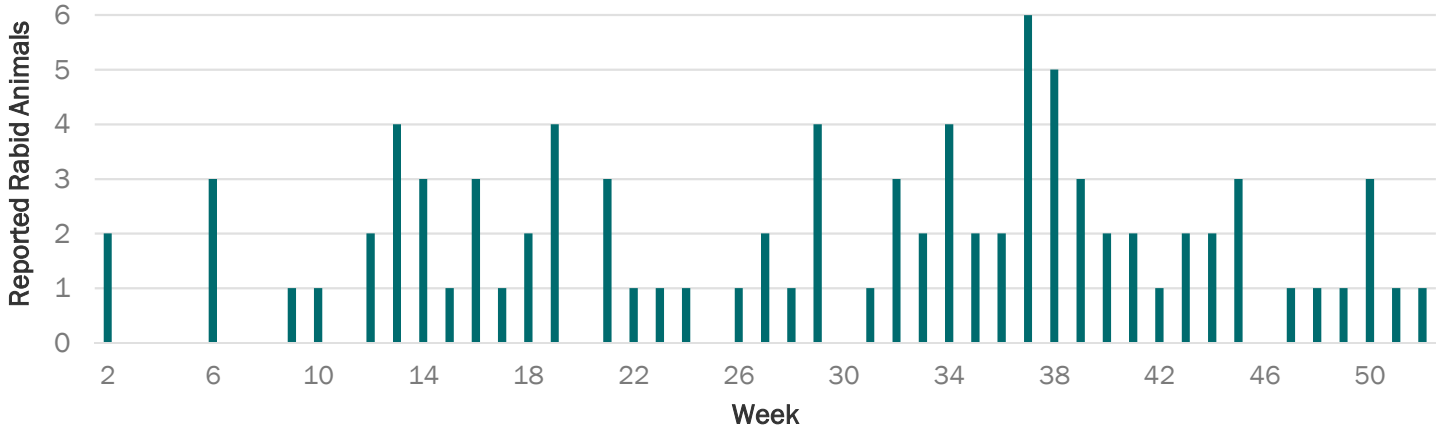
Weekly Distribution:



Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

147 Patients received or were recommended for rabies PEP

▼ 3% decrease from 2018

91% Began treatment after an exposure

6% Patients were previously vaccinated for rabies

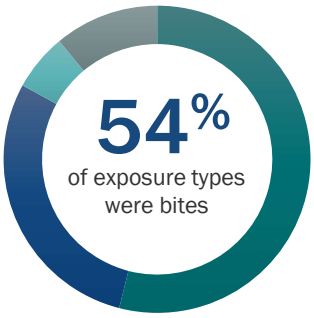
Demographics:

51% of patients were female

Median age of 36
Age range of 7 months-93 years

63% of patients were White
(36% race unknown)

Exposure Types



Exposure Sites

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
- Call your local Animal Control Officer or Game Warden
- For **human** exposures, contact your healthcare provider
- For **pet & livestock** exposures, contact your veterinarian