

Rabies Control Program

Tompkins County had no confirmed rabid animals in April. There were reports of unusual acting raccoons and skunks, but there was no human contact. Since is possible that some of these animals may have been rabid, it is important to avoid contact with wildlife and to keep pets vaccinated

This is the time of year when bat encounters increase. While only one to five percent of bats tested by the New York Wadsworth Laboratory prove to be rabid, the possibility of an undetected bite makes these encounters potentially problematic. In cases where a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, a person with a sensory impairment, or in the presence of a child, the bat should be captured and brought to the Health Department for rabies testing. All bats that bite a person should be tested. Keep in mind the bat's brain must be intact in order to be tested.

Key Data Overview		
	This Month	YTD
Bites ¹	23	66
Non Bites ²	1	5
Referrals to Other Counties	5	14
Submissions to the NYS Rabies Lab	14	31
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	1	9
Unvaccinated Pets 6-Month Quarantined ³	0	1
Unvaccinated Pets Destroyed ⁴	0	0
Rabid Animals (Laboratory Confirmed)	0	2

¹"Bites" include all reported bites inflicted by mammals and any other wounds received while saliva is present.

²"Non-bites" include human exposures to saliva of potentially rabid animals. This also includes bats in rooms with sleeping people or young children where the bat was unavailable for testing.

³When an otherwise healthy, unvaccinated pet has contact with a rabid animal, or suspect rabid animal, that pet must be quarantined for 6 months or euthanized. Quarantine must occur in a TCHD-approved facility (such as a kennel) at the owner's expense. If the pet is still healthy at the end of 6 months, the exposure did not result in rabies and the pet is released.

⁴ Pets must be euthanized if they are unvaccinated and have been in contact with a rabid or suspect rabid animal and begin to display signs consistent with rabies. Alternatively, a pet is euthanized if a prescribed 6-month quarantine cannot be performed or the owners elect euthanasia instead of quarantine.

Reports by Animal Type								
	Bites		Animals sent to the NYS Rabies Laboratory				Rabid Animals	
	Month	YTD	By TCHD	By Cornell Veterinary	Totals		Month	YTD
					Month	YTD		
Cat	6	20	0	2	2	7	0	0
Dog	17	42	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cattle	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Horse/Mule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheep/Goat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raccoon	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Bats	0	0	2	2	4	9	0	1
Skunks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foxes	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other Wild	0	3	0	8	8	10	0	0
Totals	23	66	2	12	14	31	0	2