

Rabies Control Program

There was one bat and one gray fox confirmed to be rabid in Tompkins County during July. The bat was found at a children's camp. Camp staff dealt with the bat appropriately and prevented human exposures. Over a two day period, the gray fox attacked people and pets at two locations, biting two people and possibly a cat before it was dispatched.

The Tompkins County Health Department also learned of a boy on vacation in Tompkins County with his parents who was bitten in his home state by a raccoon presumed to be rabid. The Tompkins County Health Department worked with the parents, local health care providers, and the New Hampshire Health Department to insure the boy received rabies treatment.

This is the time of year when encounters with bats increase. In cases where a bat bites a person, or is found either 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.

Key Data Overview		
	This Month	YTD
Bites¹	26	135
Non Bites²	12	37
Referrals to Other Counties	10	34
Submissions to the NYS Rabies Lab	29	96
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	22	53
Unvaccinated Pets 6-Month Quarantined³	0	3
Unvaccinated Pets Destroyed⁴	0	0
Rabid Animals (Laboratory Confirmed)	2	6

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 NYS CU Vet College	Totals		Month	YTD
					Month	YTD		
Cat	7	43	2	0	2	9	0	0
Dog	11	78	2	0	2	6	0	0
Cattle	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Horse/Mule	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
Sheep/Goat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Domestic	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raccoon	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
Bats	3	3	13	1	14	42	1	4
Skunks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foxes	2	3	1	0	0	5	1	1
Other Wild	2	6	0	9	9	30	0	0
Totals	26	135	18	11	29	96	2	6