

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Jurisdiction affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment

For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:

MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: ahops.mda@maryland.gov, 410-841-5810

MDH - Maryland Department of Health, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov, 410-767-5649

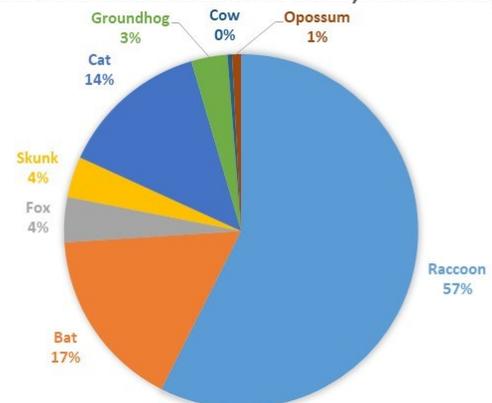
DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 410-226-5193

Maryland Animal Rabies Surveillance Summary, 2017

In 2017, a total of 3,486 animals were submitted to the Maryland Public Health Laboratory for rabies testing, with all 24 jurisdictions in the State of Maryland reporting. Of that total, 242 animals were confirmed positive for rabies, accounting for 7% of all submissions. This represents a slight decrease from 2016, in which 335 confirmed rabid animals accounted for 9.2% of the 3,638 submitted specimens, but is consistent with the overall trend of 7% - 9% of all submitted specimens annually for the last 10 years.

The breakdown of rabid animals by species for 2017 was: bats 16.5% (40), cats 14.0% (33), cows 0.4% (1), foxes 4% (10), groundhogs 3.3% (8), raccoons 57.4% (139), and skunks 7.8% (26). For the last ten years, cats have averaged around 7% annually and represent the domestic species with the highest percentage of rabies cases. For wildlife species, raccoons have the highest percentage of rabies and account for approximately two-thirds of all confirmed rabid animals in Maryland annually. However, data from the last few years indicate that this trend may be changing. In 2017, raccoons accounted for just 46% of all rabid animals, and in 2016, they comprised only 57.4%.

CONFIRMED RABID ANIMALS BY SPECIES, MARYLAND, 2017



The breakdown of rabid animals by jurisdiction and month has remained generally consistent. As in previous years, the highest percentages of rabid animals came from the most populous jurisdictions: 8% (20) in Baltimore City, 14% (35) in Frederick County, 9% (21) in Harford County, and 11% (27) in Montgomery County. Likewise, as expected, the highest numbers of rabid animals in 2017 were reported in the warmer months of summer and early autumn.

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
Domestic animals	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx
Humans	MDH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx
Wildlife	877-463-6497 or 800-628-9944

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Canine Distemper on the Rise

The State of New York is reporting an increase of distemper in raccoons in Niagara County.

Canine distemper is a viral disease of domestic and wild animals that can be confused with rabies. Distemper does not affect humans. Common clinical signs include coughing, ocular & nasal discharge, and emaciated appearance. Infected animals may also present with foot pad skin proliferation, a dermatological condition often called "hard pad." Symptoms become progressively worse and may culminate in disorientation, convulsions, "chewing fits," aggression, and death.

Spillover is common at the domestic dog-wildlife interface, so veterinarians are urged to remind pet owners to vaccinate their dogs. While feline distemper is also known to affect wildlife, canine distemper is much more common in raccoons.

Remember, sick or injured wildlife should never be handled directly, except by professionals. Reports of such animals can be made to Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Additional information on what to do if you find sick or injured wildlife is available online at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/sickorinjured.aspx.

Salmonella in Chicks, Rabbits, and Ducklings

Spring is right around the corner!

Spring is a time when people often give chicks, ducklings and rabbits as gifts, but they should take caution before doing so. Chicks, rabbits and ducklings can carry *Salmonella*, a bacterial disease often spread through feces or contaminated water. As birds are prone to preening from a young age, bacteria can be spread quickly all over the body and simply handling the birds becomes a health risk.

The risk of infection is highest in infants and young children, but people of all ages can get *Salmonella*. Human illness, marked by diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, and headache, develops 6 to 72 hours after exposure and typically lasts for two to seven days. The risk of infection can be reduced by avoiding direct contact with contaminated sources or thoroughly washing hands immediately after contact with animals.

Additionally, many well-meaning gift-givers do not understand the significant responsibility that comes with adopting a rabbit, duckling, or chick. These are living, breathing animals with lifespans of up to ten years and specific medical and dietary requirements. Households not prepared to meet these requirements or, in the case of chicks and ducklings, not zoned to do so may end up relinquishing the animal shortly after the spring festivities.

For the safety and health of both humans and animals, make your spring chicks and rabbits chocolate only!

Additional information regarding the risk of Salmonella infection from live poultry is available online at: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html>.

Information on specific requirements for pet rabbits can be found online at: <https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/Pages/Selecting-a-Pet-Rabbit.aspx>.

For information about the health risks associated with keeping rabbits, chicks, or other animals as pets, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/index.html>.

MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2018

Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending March 24, 2018

Jurisdiction	Bat Total (New)	Cat Total (New)	Cow Total (New)	Dog Total (New)	Fox Total (New)	Groundhog Total (New)	Raccoon Total (New)	Skunk Total (New)	Other Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany										
Anne Arundel										
Baltimore							5(5)			5(5)
Baltimore City	1(1)						5(5)			6(6)
Calvert										
Caroline							1(1)			1(1)
Carroll		1(1)					1(1)			2(2)
Cecil							1(1)			1(1)
Charles								1(1)		1(1)
Dorchester							1(1)			1(1)
Frederick							2(2)	1		3(2)
Garrett			1(1)				1(1)			2(2)
Harford							1(1)			1(1)
Howard							2(2)			2(2)
Kent										
Montgomery							5(4)			5(4)
Prince George's							3(3)			3(3)
Queen Anne's							1(1)			1(1)
Saint Mary's										
Somerset							1(1)			1(1)
Talbot							3(2)			3(2)
Washington							1(1)			1(1)
Wicomico					1(1)					1(1)
Worcester							2(2)	1(1)		3(3)
Total (New)	1(1)	1(1)	1(1)		1(1)		36(34)	3(2)		43(40)

Other:

For complete animal rabies data:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>

To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:

<https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/PHPSA.aspx>

National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events?ongoing.jsp

U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Influenza Report:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>