

## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

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

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Counties affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment
April 2011	ongoing	various	Bat	Rabies	38	DHMH	See below

**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.state.md.us](mailto:ahops@mda.state.md.us), 410-841-5810
- DHMH - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: [czvbd@dnhm.state.md.us](mailto:czvbd@dnhm.state.md.us), 410-767-5649
- DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, [FWHP@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:FWHP@dnr.state.md.us), 410-226-5193

### Comments

Currently, as generally occurs at this time of year, Maryland residents are reporting an increased number of bat encounters; the summer months are also when the DHMH Rabies Laboratory confirms the greatest number of rabid bats. To date, 38 bats have been confirmed rabid, accounting for only 5% of the 720 bats tested, but 19% of the 200 confirmed rabid animals. Bats play a key role in the ecosystem and only a very small number of bats actually carry rabies. However, bats remain the most common source of human rabies in the U.S. Of the 19 naturally acquired cases of rabies in humans in the U.S. from 1997-2006, 17 were associated with bats. Among those, 14 patients had known encounters with bats: four people awoke when a bat landed on them and one person awoke because a bat bit him.

When a person is exposed to a bat, the bat should be collected safely, if possible, and tested for rabies by submitting it to the DHMH Rabies Laboratory through your local health department or animal control agency. The safest way to capture a bat is to use a wildlife cooperater or trapper. If that is not possible, close doors and windows and wait for the bat to land. Wearing heavy gloves, place a box or coffee can over the bat and slide a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Firmly hold the cardboard in place against the container, turn it right side up, and tape the cardboard tightly to the container. Local health departments are highly skilled in assessing risk following potential exposure to rabies, and can make recommendations regarding the need for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

For general rabies information, visit <http://ideha.dhnh.maryland.gov/CZVBD/rabies.aspx>

For more information on bats, go to [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants\\_Wildlife/bats/index.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/bats/index.asp)

To locate a wildlife cooperater, visit <http://webapps02.dnr.state.md.us/WHSNuisance/WCCQuery.aspx>

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
<b>Domestic animals</b>	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 <a href="http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/reportable.php">www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/reportable.php</a>
<b>Wild animals</b>	MD DNR / USDA Wildlife Service Call Center 1-877-463-6497 <a href="http://www.whmn.org/wher/">http://www.whmn.org/wher/</a>
<b>Humans</b>	DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 <a href="http://ideha.dhnh.maryland.gov/reportable-diseases.aspx">http://ideha.dhnh.maryland.gov/reportable-diseases.aspx</a>

## MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2011

**Table 2. New (confirmed within the last two weeks) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending August 13, 2011**

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							2			2
Anne Arundel	3(1)	1(1)					2			6(2)
Baltimore	1(1)				2		10(1)			11(2)
Baltimore City	14(5)	1					7			22(5)
Calvert	1(1)				3		3			7(1)
Caroline										0
Carroll			1		1		5			7
Cecil							2			2
Charles		3	1	1	1	1	6	1		14
Dorchester							6(1)			6(1)
Frederick	2(1)	1		1	2(1)		12	1		19(2)
Garrett							2			2
Harford	2(1)				2		8			12(1)
Howard	2(1)	2			1		7			12(1)
Kent	1									1
Montgomery	7(1)				2	2	13			24(1)
Prince George's	5(1)				2		5(1)			12(2)
Queen Anne's							4			4
Somerset		1					6			7
St. Mary's		2			3(2)		2	1(1)		8(3)
Talbot					1		4	1		6
Washington					1		2	2		5
Wicomico							1			1
Worcester						1	6	1		8
<b>Total (New)</b>	<b>38(13)</b>	<b>11(1)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21(3)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>115(3)</b>	<b>7(1)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200(21)</b>

**For complete animal rabies and other human zoonotic and vector-borne disease case counts, please visit:**

<http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/CZVBD/>

**To review additional disease reports:**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Biosurveillance Report:

<http://preparedness.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/Programs/Biosurveillance>

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

[http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality\\_events?ongoing.jsp](http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events?ongoing.jsp)

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

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health)

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Influenza Report:

<http://www.marylandfluwatch.org/>

Maryland One Health Bulletin:

[http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal\\_health/diseases/bulletin.php](http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/bulletin.php)