



Pennsylvania Animal Rabies Quick Facts 2015
Pennsylvania Department of Health
Bureau of Epidemiology
Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology

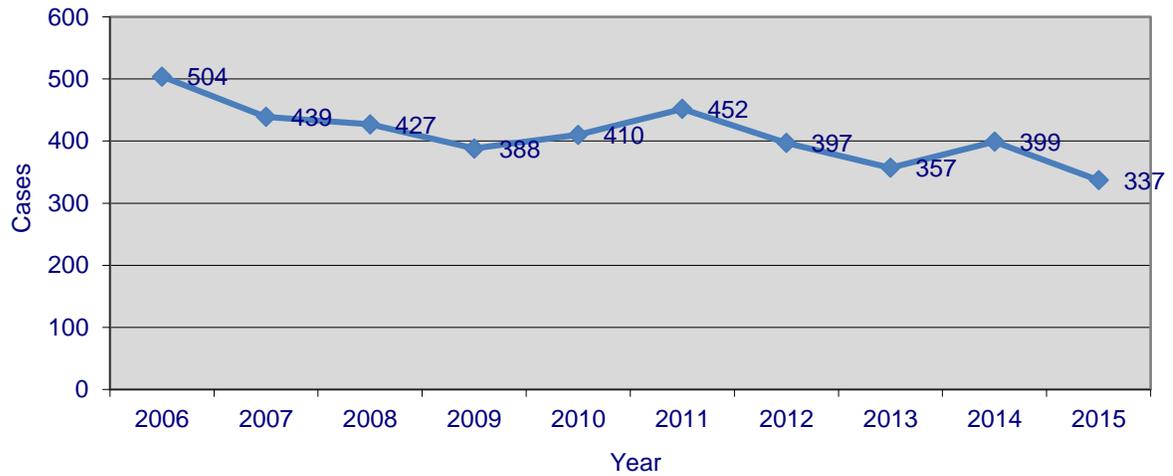
Rabies is a viral disease affecting the nervous system of mammals. Rabies is always fatal, however, vaccination is highly effective. In Pennsylvania, rabies vaccination is required for all dogs and many cats. Vaccination should also be considered for other mammalian pets and livestock. Most animals affected by rabies are wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats.

In Pennsylvania, mammals can be tested for rabies by submitting the animal specimen to a public health or agricultural laboratory in the state. Animal rabies is tested by five agency affiliations in the state. They are the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (AG), Pennsylvania Department of Health Bureau of Laboratories (BOL), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Philadelphia Public Health Laboratory (PHIL) and the Allegheny County Public Health Laboratory (ACDL). Typically, 5000-6000 animals are tested annually in Pennsylvania for rabies.

The laboratories perform rapid testing for rabies and report positive results to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH). Community Health Nurses at the DOH contact the submitter to determine if a human exposure occurred and if rabies post exposure prophylaxis vaccinations are needed.

In 2015, **337** animals tested positive for rabies. This is below the 10 year average of 411 positive rabies animals per year. The number of positive rabid animals reported annually for the last 10 years is shown below.

Ten Year Historical Data



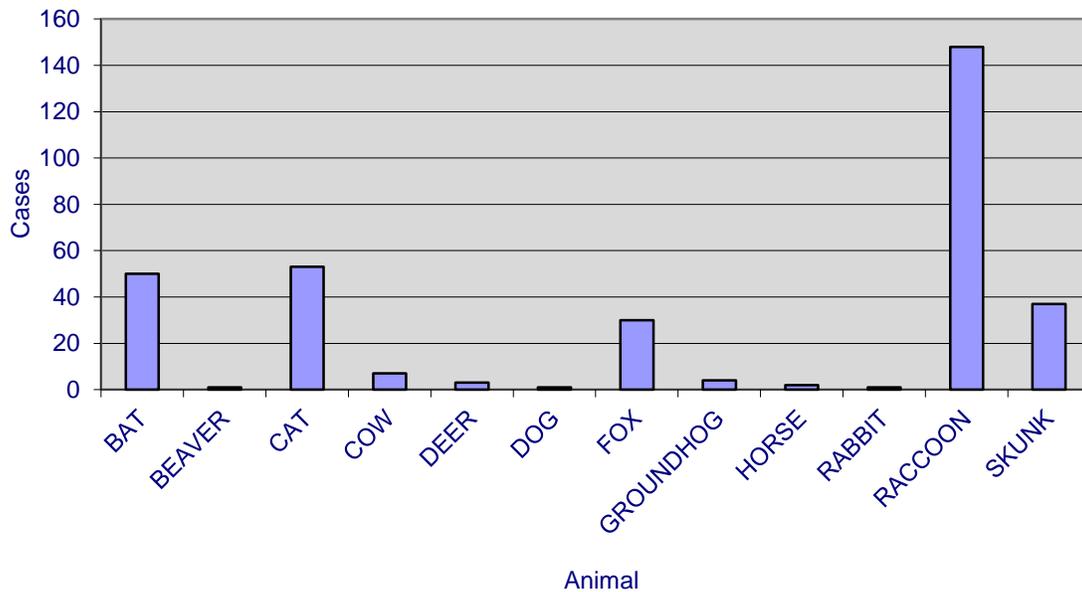
Most animals in Pennsylvania are tested by the AG and BOL laboratories. Animals with a human exposure are typically tested at BOL; animals with no human exposure are typically tested at AG.

Laboratory	Positive Animals Tested	Percent of Positive Animals Tested (%)
AG	187	55.5
ACHD	21	6.2
BOL	126	37.4
PDPH	2	1.8
Other	1	0.9

Animal Distribution

Most rabid animals in Pennsylvania are raccoons, followed by cats, bats, skunks and foxes. Several other wild and domestic animals and livestock make up the remainder of the rabid animals.

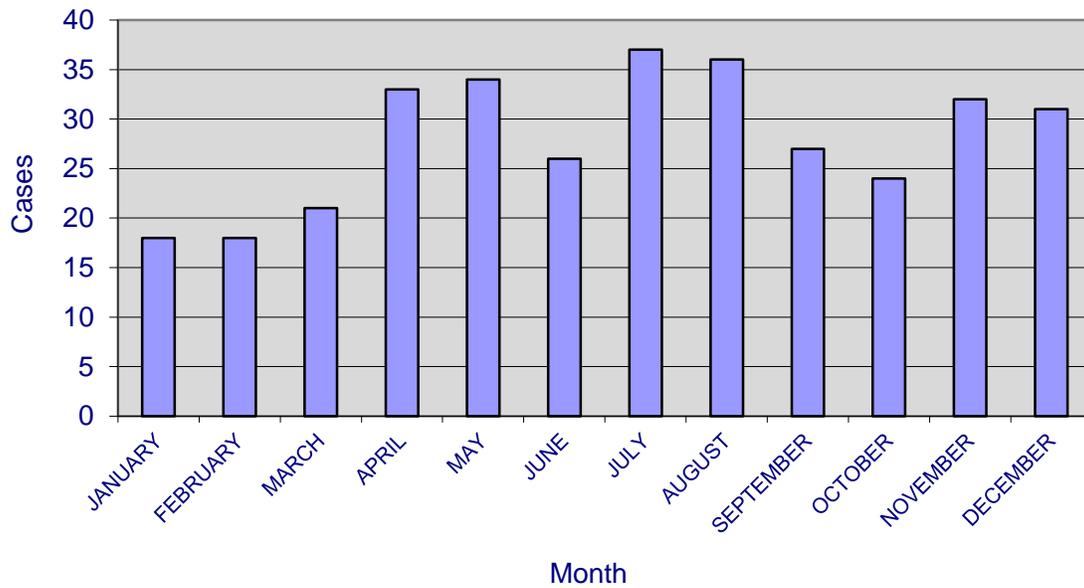
ANIMAL	Cases	Percent (%)	ANIMAL	Cases	Percent (%)
BAT	50	14.8	FOX	30	8.9
BEAVER	1	0.3	GROUNDHOG	4	1.2
CAT	53	15.7	HORSE	2	0.6
COW	7	2.1	RABBIT	1	0.3
DEER	3	0.9	RACCOON	148	43.9
DOG	1	0.3	SKUNK	37	11.0



Monthly Distribution

Rabid animals are identified year round in Pennsylvania, however, the reports of rabid animals tend to increase in the warmer months as animals and people spend more time outdoors and encounters with rabid animals are more likely to occur.

MONTH	Cases	Percent (%)
JANUARY	18	5.3
FEBRUARY	18	5.3
MARCH	21	6.2
APRIL	33	9.8
MAY	34	10.1
JUNE	26	7.7
JULY	37	11.0
AUGUST	36	10.7
SEPTEMBER	27	8.0
OCTOBER	24	7.1
NOVEMBER	32	9.5
DECEMBER	31	9.2

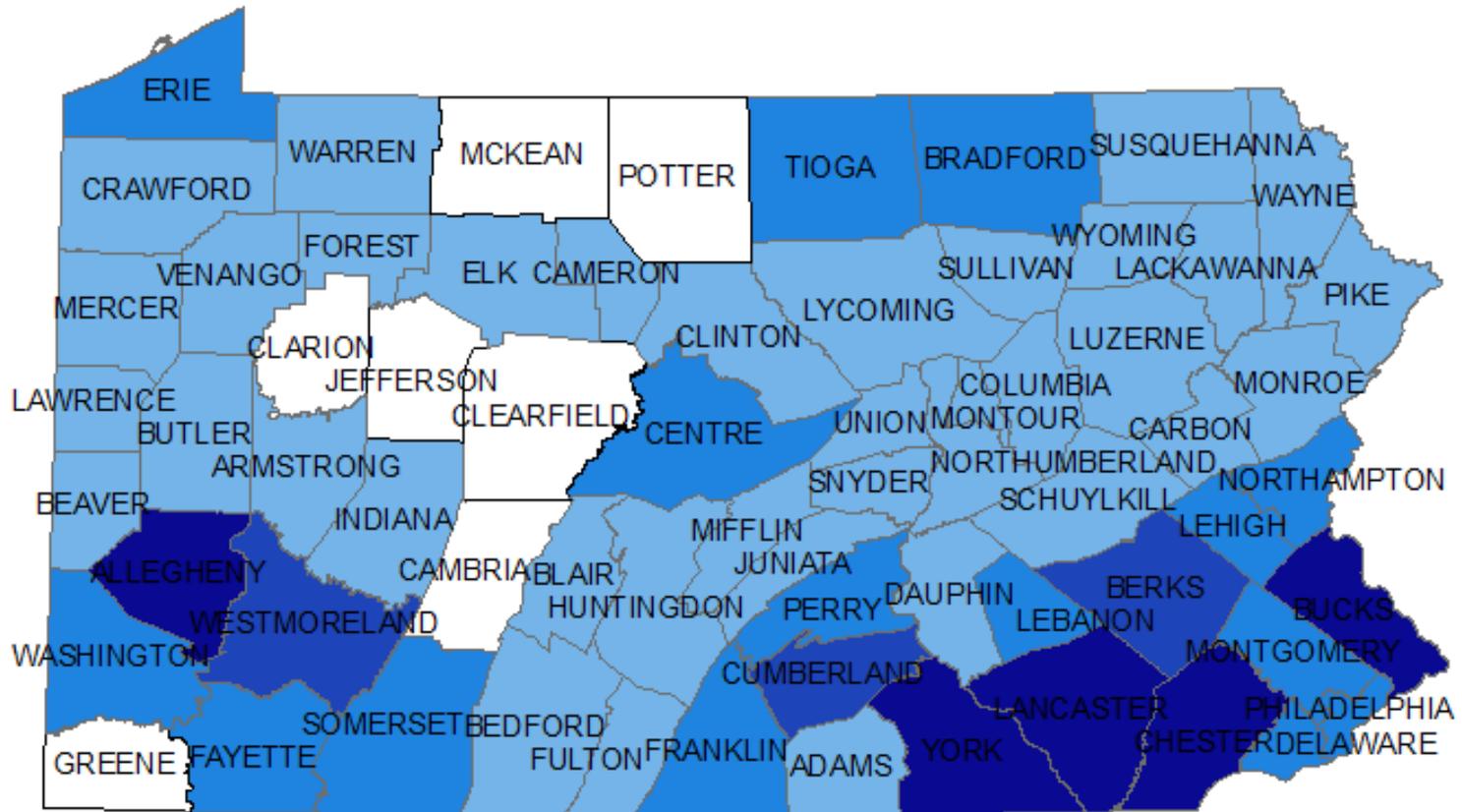


County Distribution

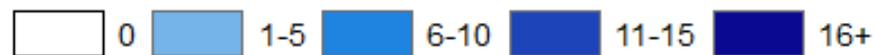
Counties in the southeast and southcentral areas of the state tend to receive the most reports of rabid animals. In 2015, Chester county in the southeast area of the state reported more rabid animals than any other county with 28 positive animals. Allegheny (18), Bucks (18), Lancaster (16) and York (16) counties followed.

COUNTY	Cases	Percent (%)	COUNTY	Cases	Percent (%)
ADAMS	4	1.2	LANCASTER	16	4.8
ALLEGHENY	18	5.4	LAWRENCE	3	0.9
ARMSTRONG	2	0.6	LEBANON	6	1.8
BEAVER	2	0.6	LEHIGH	7	2.1
BEDFORD	5	1.5	LUZERNE	2	0.6
BERKS	13	3.9	LYCOMING	5	1.5
BLAIR	3	0.9	MERCER	4	1.2
BRADFORD	6	1.8	MIFFLIN	2	0.6
BUCKS	18	5.4	MONROE	2	0.6
BUTLER	3	0.9	MONTGOMERY	9	2.7
CAMERON	1	0.3	MONTOUR	1	0.3
CARBON	2	0.6	NORTHAMPTON	8	2.4
CENTRE	6	1.8	NORTHUMBERLAND	3	0.9
CHESTER	28	8.4	PERRY	8	2.4
CLINTON	2	0.6	PHILADELPHIA	6	1.8
COLUMBIA	4	1.2	PIKE	1	0.3
CRAWFORD	5	1.5	SCHUYLKILL	3	0.9
CUMBERLAND	11	3.3	SNYDER	2	0.6
DAUPHIN	4	1.2	SOMERSET	6	1.8
DELAWARE	9	2.7	SULLIVAN	2	0.6
ELK	1	0.3	SUSQUEHANNA	4	1.2
ERIE	9	2.7	TIOGA	7	2.1
FAYETTE	7	2.1	UNION	1	0.3
FOREST	1	0.3	VENANGO	1	0.3
FRANKLIN	8	2.4	WARREN	2	0.6
FULTON	5	1.5	WASHINGTON	7	2.1
HUNTINGDON	2	0.6	WAYNE	3	0.9
INDIANA	1	0.3	WESTMORELAND	11	3.3
JUNIATA	1	0.3	WYOMING	2	0.6
LACKAWANNA	4	1.2	YORK	16	4.8

Animal Rabies Cases by County 2015



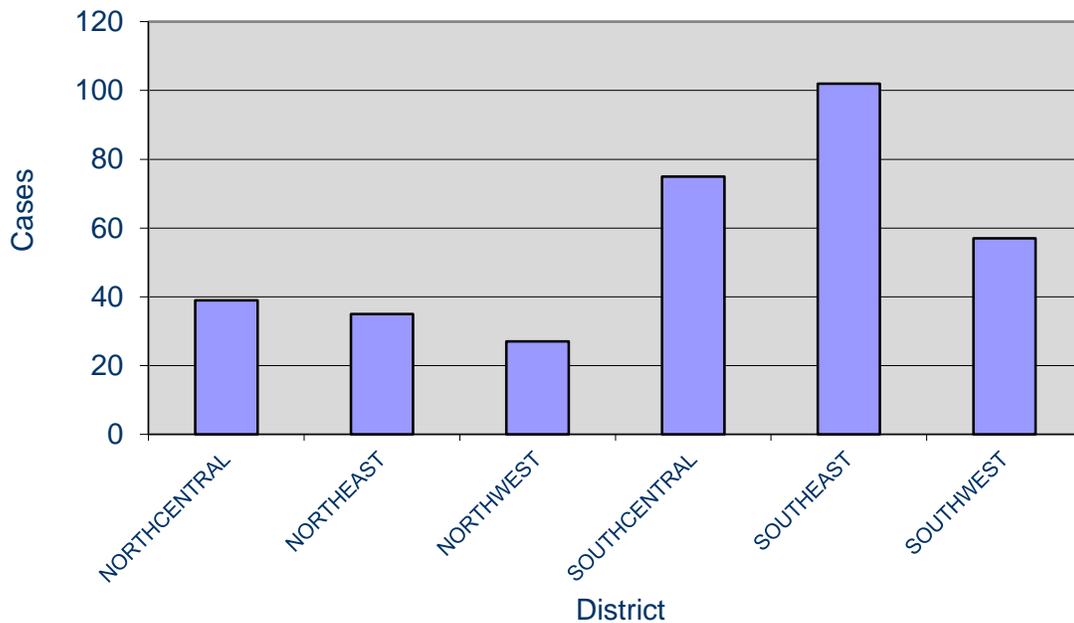
Legend



District Distribution

Pennsylvania is divided into six health districts. Typically, the southcentral districts reports the most rabid animals. However, in 2015, the southeast district was the highest reporting district with 102 rabid animals reported.

DISTRICT	Cases	Percent (%)
NORTHCENTRAL	39	11.6
NORTHEAST	35	10.5
NORTHWEST	27	8.1
SOUTHCENTRAL	75	22.4
SOUTHEAST	102	30.5
SOUTHWEST	57	17.0



Animal and County Distribution

The following table displays with species of rabid animal reported for each county in 2015.

COUNTY	ANIMAL											
	BAT	BEAVER	CAT	COW	DEER	DOG	FOX	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RABBIT	RACCOON	SKUNK
ADAMS	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
ALLEGHENY	6	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	6	0
ARMSTRONG	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
BEAVER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
BEDFORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
BERKS	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	0
BLAIR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
BRADFORD	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
BUCKS	5	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	2
BUTLER	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
CAMERON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CARBON	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CENTRE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
CHESTER	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	19	3
CLINTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
COLUMBIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
CRAWFORD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
CUMBERLAND	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
DAUPHIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
DELAWARE	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0

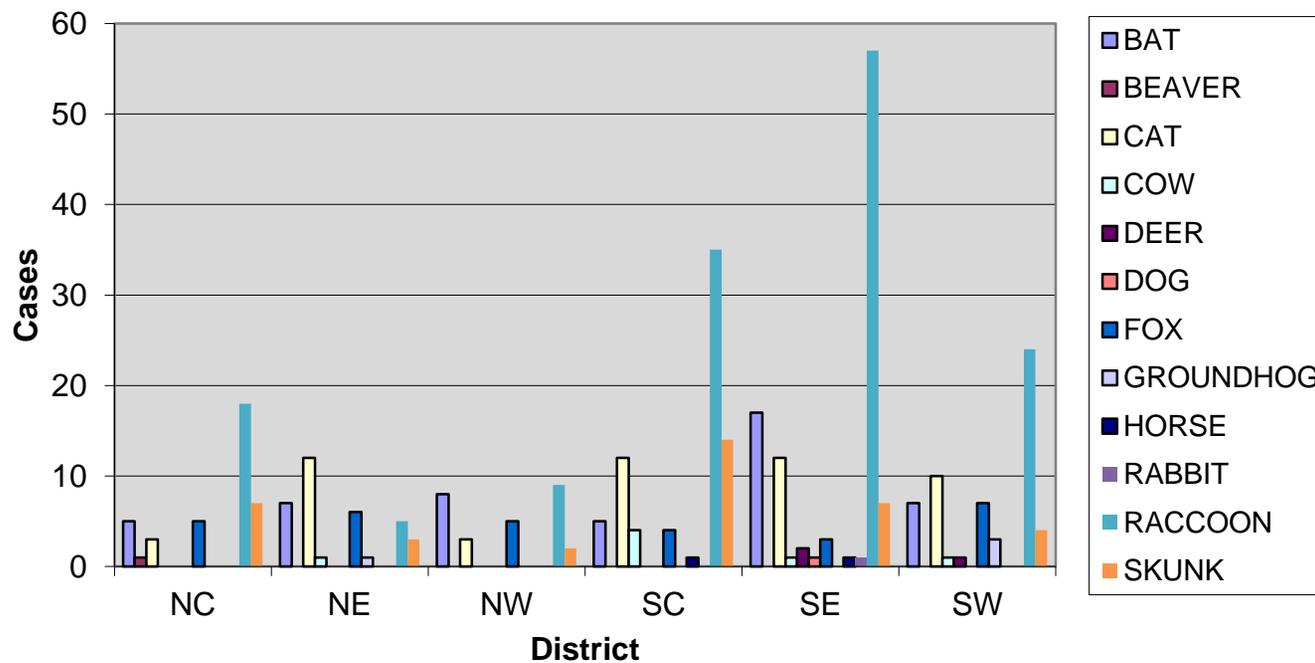
ELK	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ERIE	4	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
FAYETTE	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1
FOREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	2
FULTON	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
HUNTINGDON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
INDIANA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUNIATA	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LACKAWANNA	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
LANCASTER	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	1
LAWRENCE	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEBANON	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
LEHIGH	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
LUZERNE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
LYCOMING	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
MERCER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
MIFFLIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
MONROE	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
MONTOUR	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NORTHAMPTON	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
NORTHUMBERLAND	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
PERRY	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1

PHILADELPHIA	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
PIKE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SCHUYLKILL	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
SNYDER	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SOMERSET	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
SULLIVAN	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUSQUEHANNA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
TIOGA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
UNION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
VENANGO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
WARREN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0
WAYNE	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
WESTMORELAND	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	0
WYOMING	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
YORK	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	7	1

Animal and District Distribution

Raccoons were the most commonly reported rabid animal for each district except the northeast district which reported more rabid cats than raccoons.

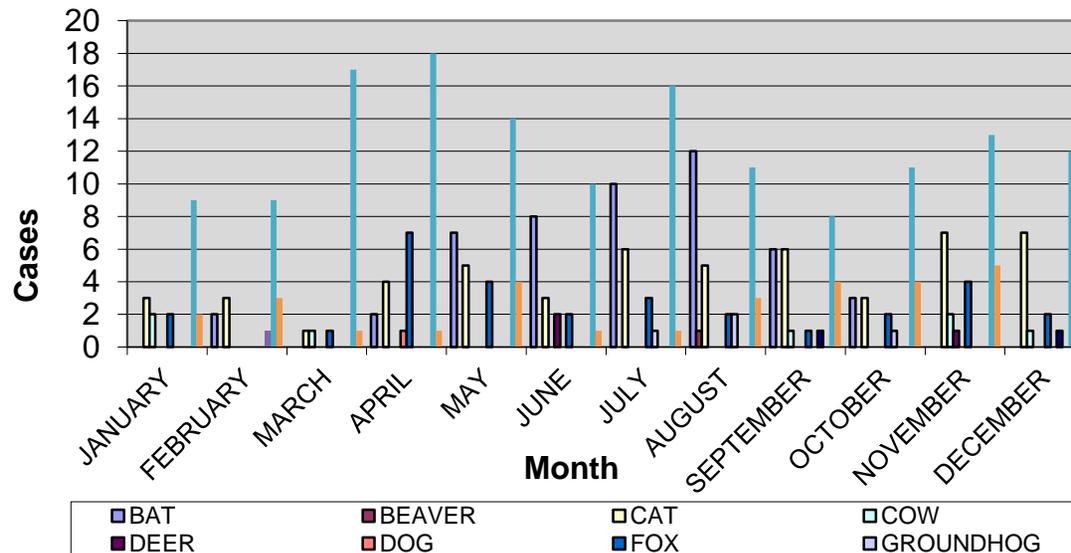
DISTRICT	ANIMAL											
	BAT	BEAVER	CAT	COW	DEER	DOG	FOX	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RABBIT	RACCOON	SKUNK
NC	5	1	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	18	7
NE	7	0	12	1	0	0	6	1	0	0	5	3
NW	8	0	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	9	2
SC	5	0	12	4	0	0	4	0	1	0	35	14
SE	17	0	12	1	2	1	3	0	1	1	57	7
SW	7	0	10	1	1	0	7	3	0	0	24	4



Animal and Month Distribution

Raccoons were the most commonly reported rabid animal by month except in August, when rabid bats were reported more frequently than raccoons.

MONTH	ANIMAL											
	BAT	BEAVER	CAT	COW	DEER	DOG	FOX	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RABBIT	RACCOON	SKUNK
JANUARY	0	0	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	9	2
FEBRUARY	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3
MARCH	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	1
APRIL	2	0	4	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	18	1
MAY	7	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	14	4
JUNE	8	0	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	10	1
JULY	10	0	6	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	16	1
AUGUST	12	1	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	11	3
SEPTEMBER	6	0	6	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	8	4
OCTOBER	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	11	4
NOVEMBER	0	0	7	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	13	5
DECEMBER	0	0	7	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	12	8





For questions on this report and other rabies data inquiries, please contact Leah Lind at llind@pa.gov or 570-826-2062.

To submit an animal for testing please contact the following:

For animals with no human exposure: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, contact your [regional office](#) to obtain information on submitting an animal for testing.

For animals with human exposure: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, [Rabies Testing](#).

Allegheny County Residents:

Allegheny County Department of Laboratories
3441 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
412-578-8070

Philadelphia Residents:

Philadelphia Department of Health Laboratory
500 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19170
215-685-6740 or 215-685-6748