



**Pennsylvania Animal Rabies Quick Facts 2016**  
**Pennsylvania Department of Health**  
**Bureau of Epidemiology**  
**Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology**

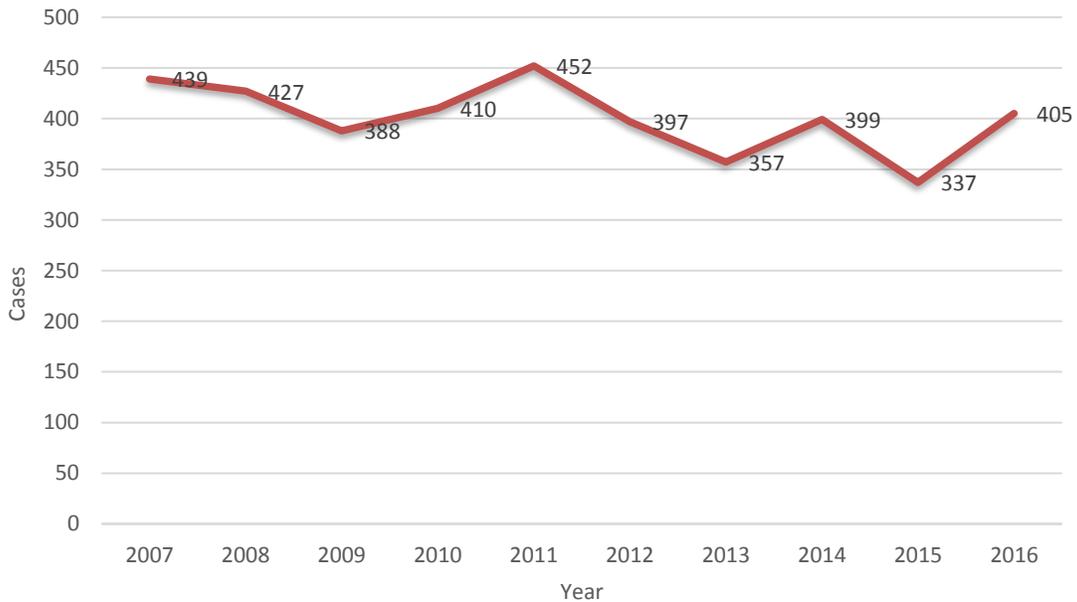
Rabies is a viral disease affecting the nervous system of mammals. Rabies is always fatal, however, vaccination is highly effective. In Pennsylvania, rabies vaccination is required for all dogs and many cats. Vaccination should also be considered for other mammalian pets and livestock. Most animals affected 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 Department of Public Health Laboratory (PDPH) and the Allegheny County Health Department Laboratory (ACHD). 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 2016, **405** animals tested positive for rabies. This is just above the 10 year average of 401 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



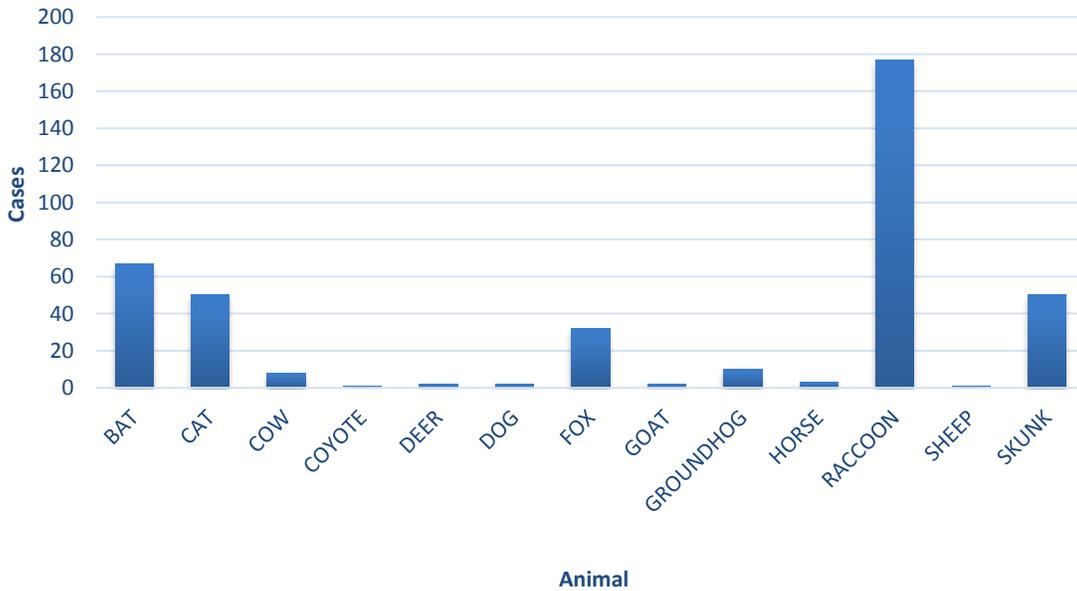
Most animals in Pennsylvania are tested by the AG and BOL laboratories. Animals with a human exposure are typically tested at BOL; animals with no human exposure are typically tested at AG.

Laboratory	Positive Animals Tested	Percent of Positive Animals Tested (%)
ACHD	26	6.4
AG	247	61.0
BOL	122	30.1
PDPH	10	2.5

### Animal Distribution

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

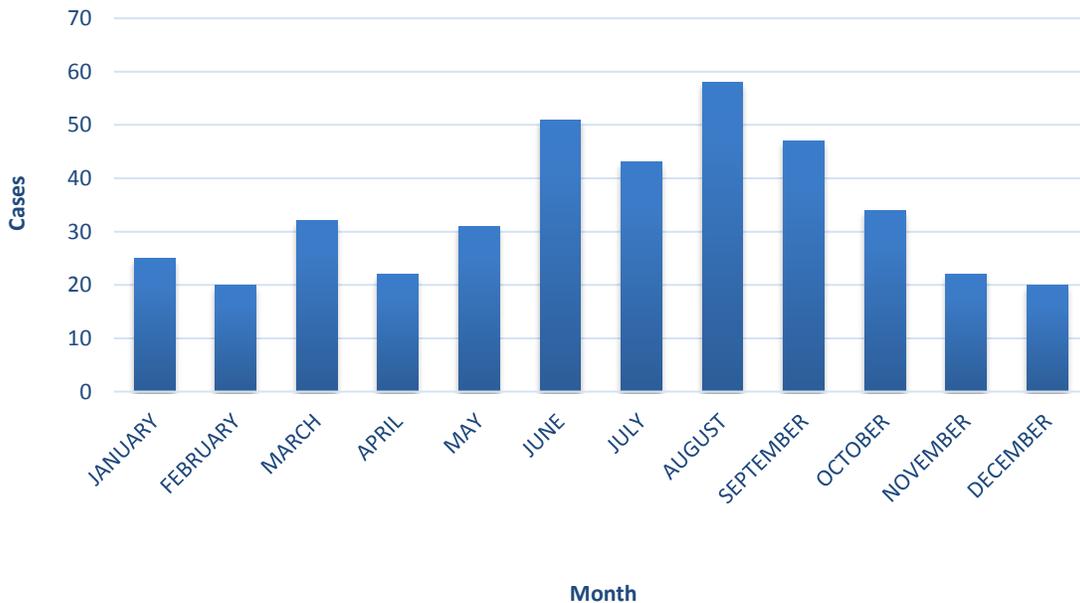
ANIMAL	Cases	Percent (%)	ANIMAL	Cases	Percent (%)
BAT	67	16.5	GOAT	2	0.5
CAT	50	12.4	GROUNDHOG	10	2.5
COW	8	2.0	HORSE	3	0.7
COYOTE	1	0.3	RACCOON	177	43.7
DEER	2	0.5	SHEEP	1	0.3
DOG	2	0.5	SKUNK	50	12.4
FOX	32	7.9			



### 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	25	6.2
FEBRUARY	20	4.9
MARCH	32	7.9
APRIL	22	5.4
MAY	31	7.7
JUNE	51	12.6
JULY	43	10.6
AUGUST	58	14.3
SEPTEMBER	47	11.6
OCTOBER	34	8.4
NOVEMBER	22	5.4
DECEMBER	20	4.9



### County Distribution

Counties in the southeast and southcentral areas of the state tend to receive the most reports of rabid animals. In 2016, Bucks county in the southeast area of the state reported more rabid animals than any other county with 24 positive animals. Allegheny (23), Chester (23), Lancaster (23) and York (16) counties followed.

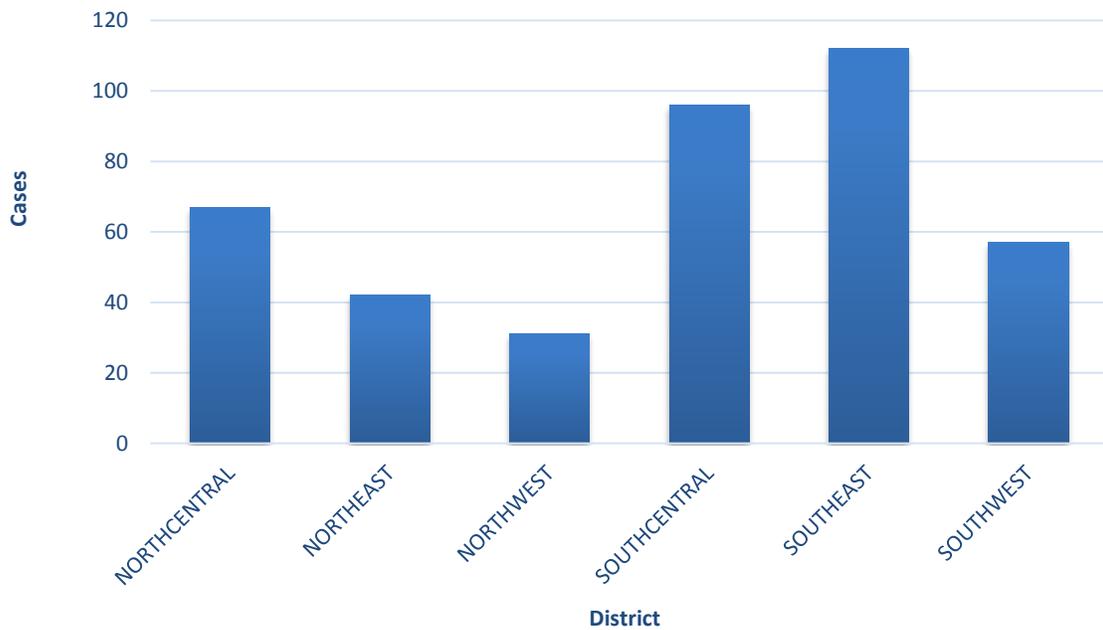
COUNTY	Cases	Percent (%)	COUNTY	Cases	Percent (%)
ADAMS	10	2.5	LANCASTER	23	5.7
ALLEGHENY	23	5.7	LAWRENCE	2	0.5
ARMSTRONG	4	1.0	LEBANON	6	1.5
BEAVER	1	0.3	LEHIGH	7	1.7
BEDFORD	5	1.2	LUZERNE	7	1.7
BERKS	11	2.7	LYCOMING	11	2.7
BLAIR	5	1.2	MCKEAN	2	0.5
BRADFORD	13	3.2	MERCER	4	1.0
BUCKS	24	5.9	MIFFLIN	2	0.5
BUTLER	7	1.7	MONROE	5	1.2
CAMBRIA	2	0.5	MONTGOMERY	4	1.0
CARBON	2	0.5	MONTOUR	1	0.3
CENTRE	10	2.5	NORTHAMPTON	10	2.5
CHESTER	23	5.7	NORTHUMBERLAND	3	0.7
CLARION	4	1.0	PERRY	10	2.5
CLINTON	2	0.5	PHILADELPHIA	11	2.7
COLUMBIA	4	1.0	PIKE	2	0.5
CRAWFORD	7	1.7	POTTER	2	0.5
CUMBERLAND	12	3.0	SCHUYLKILL	2	0.5
DAUPHIN	7	1.7	SNYDER	8	2.0
DELAWARE	14	3.5	SOMERSET	5	1.2
ERIE	5	1.2	SUSQUEHANNA	5	1.2
FAYETTE	5	1.2	TIOGA	8	2.0
FOREST	1	0.3	UNION	5	1.2
FRANKLIN	10	2.5	VENANGO	6	1.5
FULTON	3	0.7	WASHINGTON	3	0.7
GREENE	1	0.3	WAYNE	2	0.5
HUNTINGDON	10	2.5	WESTMORELAND	4	1.0
INDIANA	2	0.5	YORK	16	4.0
LACKAWANNA	2	0.5			



### District Distribution

Pennsylvania is divided into six health districts. Typically, the southcentral districts reports the most rabid animals. However, in 2016, the southeast district was the highest reporting district with 112 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 which species of rabid animals reported positive for each county in 2016.

COUNTY	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
<b>ADAMS</b>	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	10
<b>ALLEGHENY</b>	12	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	23
<b>ARMSTRONG</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
<b>BEAVER</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>BEDFORD</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
<b>BERKS</b>	4	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	11
<b>BLAIR</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
<b>BRADFORD</b>	2	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	0	13
<b>BUCKS</b>	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	10	0	4	24
<b>BUTLER</b>	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	7
<b>CAMBRIA</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>CARBON</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>CENTRE</b>	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10

COUNTY	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
CHESTER	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	0	4	23
CLARION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
CLINTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
COLUMBIA	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
CRAWFORD	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	7
CUMBERLAND	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	12
DAUPHIN	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	7
DELAWARE	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	0	5	14
ERIE	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	5
FAYETTE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5
FOREST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
FRANKLIN	2	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	10
FULTON	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
GREENE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
HUNTINGDON	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	10

COUNTY	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
INDIANA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
LACKAWANNA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
LANCASTER	2	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	11	0	2	23
LAWRENCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
LEBANON	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	6
LEHIGH	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	7
LUZERNE	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	7
LYCOMING	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	11
MCKEAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
MERCER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
MIFFLIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
MONROE	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	5
MONTGOMERY	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
MONTOUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
NORTHAMPTON	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	10

COUNTY	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
<b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
<b>PERRY</b>	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	10
<b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	11
<b>PIKE</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>POTTER</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>SCHUYLKILL</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>SNYDER</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	8
<b>SOMERSET</b>	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
<b>SUSQUEHANNA</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
<b>TIOGA</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	8
<b>UNION</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	5
<b>VENANGO</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	6
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
<b>WAYNE</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>WESTMORELAND</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	4

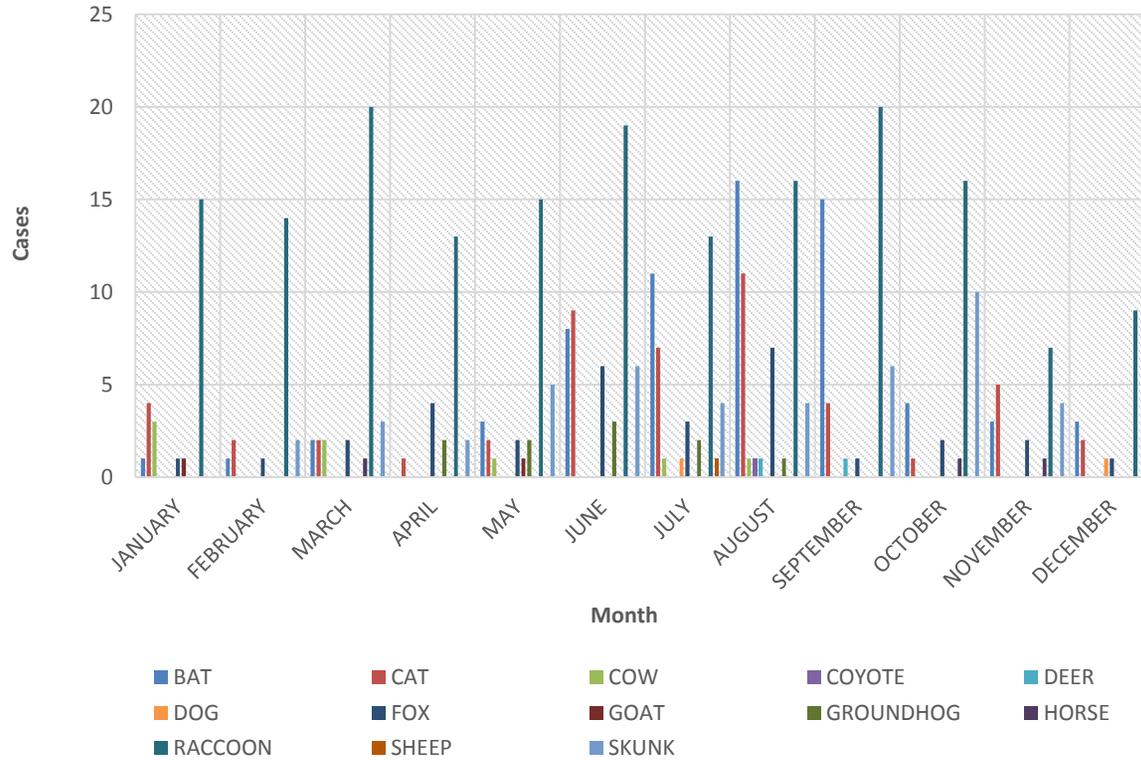
COUNTY	ANIMAL													
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	Total
<b>YORK</b>	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	8	0	3	16
<b>Total</b>	67	50	8	1	2	2	32	2	10	3	177	1	50	405

### Animal and Month Distribution

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

MONTH	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
<b>JANUARY</b>	1	4	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	0	0	25
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	2	20
<b>MARCH</b>	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	20	0	3	32
<b>APRIL</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	13	0	2	22
<b>MAY</b>	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	15	0	5	31
<b>JUNE</b>	8	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	3	0	19	0	6	51
<b>JULY</b>	11	7	1	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	13	1	4	43
<b>AUGUST</b>	16	11	1	1	1	0	7	0	1	0	16	0	4	58
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	15	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	20	0	6	47
<b>OCTOBER</b>	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	16	0	10	34
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	3	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	7	0	4	22
<b>DECEMBER</b>	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	9	0	4	20

MONTH	ANIMAL													Total
	BAT	CAT	COW	COYOTE	DEER	DOG	FOX	GOAT	GROUNDHOG	HORSE	RACCOON	SHEEP	SKUNK	
<b>Total</b>	67	50	8	1	2	2	32	2	10	3	177	1	50	405





For questions on this report and other rabies data inquiries, please contact Leah Lind at [llind@pa.gov](mailto: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