

Rabies Control Program

There were no confirmed cases of rabies in Tompkins County during March 2015. However, rabies continues to appear in wildlife animals throughout New York State. Avoiding contact with wild animals and vaccinating domestic animals is the best way to minimize exposure to rabies.

During March, two Tompkins County residents started rabies treatment for dog bites that occurred overseas. While dog rabies is rare in the United States, it continues to be a significant threat in many developing countries.

Key Data Overview				
	This Month	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	TOTAL 2014
Bites¹	13	35	17	167
Non Bites²	0	1	4	86
Referrals to Other Counties	5	8	6	43
Submissions to the Rabies Lab	12	27	24	190
Human Post-Ex Treatments	3	6	7	103
Unvaccinated Pets 6-Month Quarantined³	0	0	0	0
Unvaccinated Pets Destroyed⁴	0	0	0	0
Rabid Animals (Laboratory Confirmed)	0	0	1	12

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			
	Mo	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	Total 2014	By TCHD	By Cornell	Totals		Mo	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	Total 2014
							Mo	YTD				
Cat	6	13	8	58	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Dog	13	28	8	94	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cattle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horse/Mule	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheep/Goat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Domestic	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Raccoon	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Bats	0	0	0	6	6	1	7	19	0	0	0	5
Skunks	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Wild	0	0	0	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	19	41	17	167	10	2	12	27	0	0	1	12