

Rabies Control Program

There were no confirmed cases of rabies in Tompkins County during May 2017. However, a person was bitten by a raccoon but the animal was not able to be captured for testing so the victim required treatment. In addition, a cat that had only received one vaccination early in life was euthanized after it was attacked by a raccoon. Due to the length of time the vaccination was lapsed, the care the injuries required and the risk of rabies transmission to those caring for the cat it was determined that euthanasia was the humane decision. Had the cat been up to date on vaccinations, a booster vaccination would have protected the cat and minimized risk to caregivers.

Spring Rabies Clinics were held in May in the Towns of Lansing, Danby, Dryden, Enfield and Ithaca. 523 dogs, cats, and ferrets were vaccinated at these clinics, an increase of 101 pets from last spring. Online pre-registration was available for these clinics, with an average of 1/3 of attendees per clinic using this option.

The rabies program has been utilizing the new Facebook platform to provide the public with rabies-related information.

Key Data Overview				
	This Month	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	TOTAL 2016
Bites¹	25	104	84	230
Non Bites²	13	31	8	144
Referrals to Other Counties	2	10	16	46
Submissions to the NYS Rabies Lab	16	57	46	195
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	5	18	4	85
Unvaccinated Pets Quarantined³	0	0	1	4
Unvaccinated Pets Destroyed⁴	1	1	5	10
Rabid Animals (Lab Confirmed)	0	1	3	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 2017	YTD 2016	Total 2016	By TCHD	By Cornell	Totals		Mo	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	Total 2016
							Mo	YTD				
Cat	8	40	23	84	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	1
Dog	16	61	55	133	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Cattle	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Horse/Mule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheep/Goat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Domestic	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raccoon	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	3
Bats	0	0	0	1	6	3	9	23	0	0	0	7
Skunks	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Foxes	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other Wild	0	0	4	6	0	5	5	17	0	0	0	1
Totals	25	104	84	230	6	10	16	57	0	1	3	12