

Rabies Control Program

There were no confirmed cases of rabies in Tompkins County during December, 2017. The colder temperatures triggers hibernation in bats, and other wildlife become less active. People and pets are also more likely to stay indoors, so encounters with wildlife reduce significantly in the cold winter months.

The January Free Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for January 24, 2018, at the SPCA. This is a well-attended clinic in most years, regardless of weather. The use of social media and online pre-registration is showing continued success in reaching Tompkins County residents. An event notification was created for Facebook and online pre-registration opened before Christmas with a result that over 30 pets are already signed up to attend. Three Facebook posts will be used for further advertising closer to the time of the clinic.

Key Data Overview				
	This Month	YTD 2017	YTD 2016	TOTAL 2016
Bites¹	19	275	230	230
Non Bites²	0	203	144	144
Referrals to Other Counties	1	22	46	46
Submissions to the NYS Rabies Lab	8	218	195	195
Human Post-Exposure Treatments	2	140	85	85
Unvaccinated Pets Quarantined³	0	0	4	4
Unvaccinated Pets Destroyed⁴	0	1	10	10
Rabid Animals (Lab Confirmed)	0	13	12	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	9	108	84	84	3	0	3	24	0	1	0	0
Dog	8	146	133	133	3	0	3	12	0	0	0	0
Cattle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Horse/Mule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheep/Goat	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Domestic	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Raccoon	0	2	3	3	0	0	0	10	0	4	4	4
Bats	0	9	1	1	1	0	1	138	0	5	3	3
Skunks	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Foxes	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0
Other Wild	1	3	6	6	0	1	1	25	0	0	1	1
Totals	19	275	230	230	7	1	8	218	0	13	12	12