

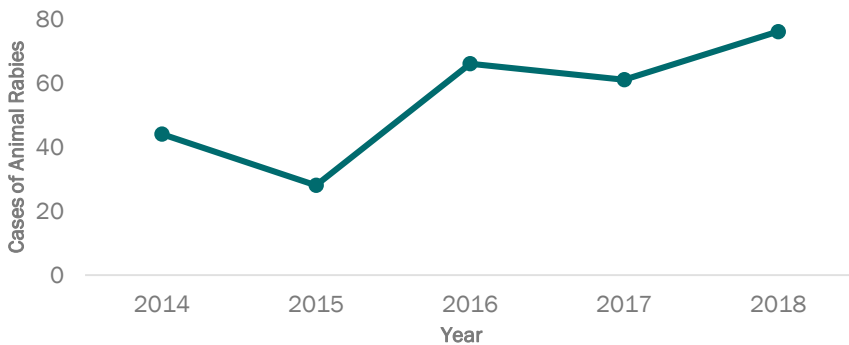


# Animal Rabies

Maine Surveillance Report | 2018

## Case Information:

**76** Animals tested positive at HETL      **24.6%** Increase from 2017

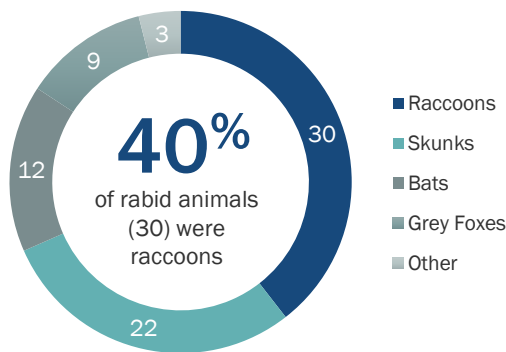


## A case from 2018:

In the summer of 2018, an otter emerged from the water onto a beach and began chasing some beach goers, including children. Marine Patrol captured the otter to submit it for rabies testing after the otter bit a person. The otter tested positive for rabies virus and the person exposed by the otter received rabies PEP.

## Exposure Characteristics:

### Reported Rabid Animals

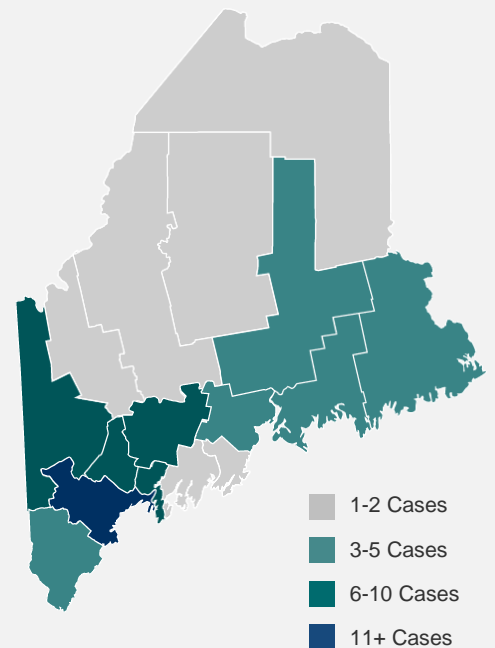


### In Maine, confirmed\* rabid animals were involved in:

**47** domestic animal exposures      **18** human exposures      **8** domestic animal & human exposures

\* No exposures identified for three cases involving a confirmed rabid animal

## Geography:



## Laboratory:



- **602** animals submitted to HETL for testing
- **570** animals tested (95% of total submissions)
- **494** negative results (87% of total tested)
- **32** animals not tested<sup>^</sup>

<sup>^</sup> Reasons for not testing animals include improper packaging, delays in shipment, contamination of the specimen, questionable exposures, etc.

## Prevention:

- Vaccinate dogs and cats (even if indoor)
- Avoid contact with wildlife or any animal you do not know
- After an animal bite:
  - Clean wounds with soap and water
  - Call your local ACO or Game Warden
  - Speak to your provider for treatment recommendations

## Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):



- **152** patients received or were recommended for rabies PEP (**96%** began treatment after an exposure)
- **41%** increase from 2017

For more information visit:

[www.maine.gov/dhhs/rabies](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/rabies)  
[www.cdc.gov/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies)