

Rabies Prevention in Vermont

- Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals, most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies causes acute encephalitis and the outcome is usually fatal. Rabies-related human deaths in the US have declined from more than 100 annually at the turn of the century to one or two per year in the 1990's. Over the past 100 years, rabies in the US has changed dramatically, with more than 90% of all animal cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention occurring in wildlife such as raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes; before 1960 the majority of cases were in domestic animals. A case of human rabies has never been documented in Vermont. Rabies is found on all continents except Antarctica. In parts of Africa, Asia and Central and South America canine rabies remains highly endemic.

- Health care providers in Vermont are required to report animal bites within 24 hours to the local health officer. Treatment and prophylaxis vary according to the exposure situation and availability of the animal for

observation and testing. **For guidance on assessment of rabies exposure and for recommendations regarding post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), call Dr. Bob Johnson, State Public Health Veterinarian, at (802)863-7240.**

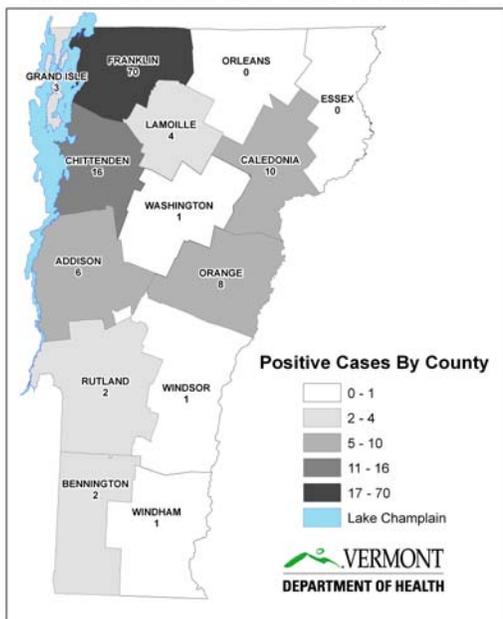
- Among wildlife strains of rabies in the US, raccoon rabies is the most prevalent. Originating in Florida approximately 50 years ago, it has migrated north, and has been documented in Vermont since 1994. The Vermont Department of Health (VDH) collaborates with the US Department of Agriculture/Wildlife Services (WS) to prevent its northern spread. In the fall of 2006, raccoon rabies was first detected in the Province of Quebec. Enhanced surveillance was then initiated by WS to better understand transmission into this territory and develop an effective control strategy. To this end, the Vermont Rabies Control Program incorporates surveillance, Trap, Vaccinate and Release (TVR), and an annual rabies vaccine bait drop in northern Vermont.

- A state-wide TVR campaign was conducted in May 2007 and included inspection of 651 raccoons, 27 skunks, 6 red foxes and

2 fisher. All captured animals were sampled, hand vaccinated and released, with the exception of 11% which were submitted to the VDH Laboratory for testing. To date in 2007, WS has submitted more than 700 specimens from across the state. A total of 124 raccoons have tested positive, including 70 in Franklin County, 16 in Chittenden, 10 in Caledonia, 8 in Orange, 6 in Addison, 4 in Lamoille, 3 in Grand Isle, 2 in Rutland, 2 in Bennington, 1 in Windsor, 1 in Windham, 1 in Washington, and 0 in Orleans Counties. For more information on rabies, rabies transmission and rabies prevention, go to:

<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/rabies/Rabies.aspx>

2007 Positive Rabies Tests Through August



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The Infectious Disease Bulletin can be viewed at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/pubs/IDB/index.aspx>

For questions & comments, please contact Mary Spayne at (802)863-7240

Vermont – Selected Reportable Diseases – 2007

(Data through MMWR Week 34 – 8/25/07) – Provisional

Number of Cases Year-To-Date																				
	Campylobacter	Cryptosporidium	E.coli O157:H7	Giardia	Group A Strep Inv	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B - Acute	Hepatitis B - Chronic	Hepatitis C - Acute	Hepatitis C - Chronic	Legionellosis	Listeriosis	Lyme	Meningococcal Inf.	Pertussis	Salmonella	Shigella	Tuberculosis*	Varicella	
Age																				
<5	12	5	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	2	7	9	0	0	45	
5-14	6	4	2	9	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	10	5	0	0	203	
15-24	13	5	2	12	0	0	0	6	1	52	0	0	10	0	2	12	1	0	10	
25-39	16	2	0	18	1	3	0	17	4	144	1	0	8	1	3	5	0	0	4	
40-64	37	4	1	33	4	1	0	15	0	318	3	0	23	0	3	16	1	1	3	
65+	9	1	0	6	6	1	1	1	0	6	2	0	14	0	2	8	0	1	0	
Unknown	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Total (YTD)	94	21	5	97	15	7	1	39	5	521	6	0	84	3	27	55	2	2	267	
5-yr Median (YTD)	65	22	8	99	11	6	2	†	5	†	3	1	31	2	50	45	3	4	†	
County of Residence																				
Addison	8	2	0	7	1	0	0	3	0	20	0	0	6	0	3	4	1		16	
Bennington	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	26	0	0	30	1	0	3	0		17	
Caledonia	3	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	30	0	0	1	0	0	2	0		7	
Chittenden	23	1	0	26	3	1	0	14	1	168	1	0	7	0	0	18	0		45	
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Franklin	9	1	2	6	0	0	0	4	0	27	0	0	2	1	0	5	0		57	
Grand Isle	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Lamoille	12	1	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	15	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		9	
Orange	4	3	0	5	1	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	3	1	0		5	
Orleans	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	33	1	0	2	0	0	1	0		3	
Rutland	3	4	0	8	4	0	0	3	1	58	1	0	7	0	0	7	1		10	
Washington	15	5	2	12	4	0	0	3	1	40	0	0	3	1	5	8	0		37	
Windham	2	0	0	11	0	4	1	3	1	45	0	0	16	0	16	3	0		39	
Windsor	6	0	0	9	2	0	0	0	1	46	2	0	7	0	0	2	0		20	
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		1	
Total (YTD)	94	21	5	97	15	7	1	39	5	521	6	0	84	3	27	55	2	2	267	
VDH District Office																				
Barre	15	5	2	14	3	0	0	1	1	29	0	0	3	1	5	8	0		35	
Bennington	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	13	0	0	3	1	0	3	0		17	
Brattleboro	2	0	0	10	0	4	0	1	1	39	0	0	9	0	14	2	0		28	
Burlington	23	1	0	25	3	0	0	6	0	114	1	0	1	0	0	18	0		44	
Middlebury	8	2	0	7	1	0	0	1	0	10	0	0	2	0	3	4	1		17	
Morrisville	12	2	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	0		10	
Newport	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	2	0	0	1	0		3	
Rutland	3	4	0	8	4	0	0	3	0	29	1	0	0	0	0	7	1		10	
St. Albans	12	1	2	6	0	1	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	6	0		59	
St. Johnsbury	5	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		7	
Springfield	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	2	0	2	1	0		21	
White River	5	2	0	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0		14	
Central Office	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	19	3	238	0	0	62	0	0	0	0		2	
Total (YTD)	94	21	5	97	15	7	1	39	5	521	6	0	84	3	27	55	2	2	267	

(802)863-7240

1(800)640-4374 (VT)

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*This column partially obscured to protect patient confidentiality

†Data captured differently in previous years; no 5-year median available