

The Rabies Reporter

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Rabies in Ontario during the third quarter

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The Rabies Reporter, a scientific newsletter about current issues in rabies research and control, is a joint effort of the Rabies Research Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources; the Rabies Laboratory at the Ottawa Laboratory (Fallowfield) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; the Ontario Ministry of Health; and the Geographic Information Systems Laboratory at Queens University, Kingston. Articles for future issues will be welcomed by the editor. The Rabies Reporter is not refereed, and should not be cited in papers intended for refereed journals. Send contributions, letters and inquiries to:

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Rabies During the Third Quarter

There were a whopping 52 cases during the third quarter of 2007. This is more than double the number of cases during the first six months of 2007 and almost two-thirds of the total number of cases for the previous year (82).

As expected, most of these cases were in bats. However, there were also nine terrestrial cases during this period—mostly from Waterloo and Wellington counties in western Ontario. There were three livestock cases, five rabid skunks, and one rabid dog from Waterloo Region.

The livestock were a donkey from Wellington County and two bovines (one each in Waterloo and Wellington counties). This brought the total livestock cases to eight compared to six during this period in 2006.

The five rabid skunks were located in Simcoe (1), Wellington (2), Waterloo (1), and Perth (1) counties. The total of 19 cases for the first three quarters of 2007 is an increase from the 15 cases during the first three quarters of 2006.

The rabid bats were spread throughout Ontario with at least one positive in every region of Ontario. Of the 47 counties/districts in Ontario, 22 of them reported rabid bats this quarter.

The location of rabid bats was: one each in Muskoka, Sudbury, and Algoma districts (northern Ontario); Ottawa-Carleton (2), Leeds and Grenville (3) and Frontenac (2) counties in eastern Ontario; Peterborough (3), Durham (4), Toronto (1), and Simcoe (3) counties in central Ontario; Peel (4), Wellington (1), Waterloo (1), Bruce (1), and Huron (2) counties in west-

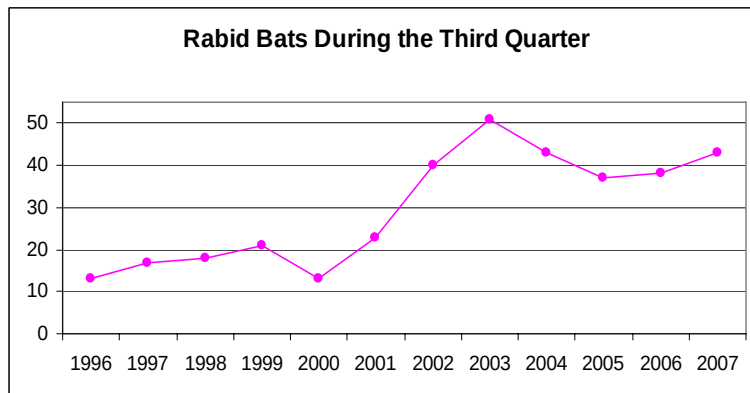


Figure 1. Incidence of rabid bats in Ontario during the third quarter (summer months).

ern Ontario; and Wentworth (3), Haldimand-Norfolk (1), Niagara (4), Oxford (1), Middlesex (2), Lambton (1), and Kent (1) counties in southern Ontario.

The third quarter is traditionally the time of year when most rabid bats are reported. Since the early 1990s, the number of reported rabid bats in Ontario has been on the rise. The dramatic increase in the last five years is quite evident in Figure 1. This is not an indication that bat rabies is on the increase but rather that more bats are being submitted for rabies testing. The percentage of bats submitted for testing that are rabies positive remains fairly constant over time.

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Animal Rabies Report: July to September 2007

Animal Type	Fox			Raccoon			Skunk			Other Wildlife			Bat			Dog			Cat			Livestock			Totals		
County or Region	#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative	
		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06		07	06
Eastern																											
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry																								0	0	0	
Prescott-Russell																								0	0	0	
Ottawa-Carleton											2	2												2	2	0	
Renfrew																								0	0	0	
Lanark																								0	0	0	
Leeds and Grenville											3	3												3	3	0	
Frontenac											2	3												2	3	0	
Lennox & Addington												1												0	1	0	
Central																											
Hastings																								0	0	0	
Prince Edward																								0	0	0	
Northumberland																								0	0	0	
Victoria																								0	0	0	
Haliburton																								0	0	0	
Peterborough											3	5	5											3	5	5	
Durham											4	5	3								1			4	6	3	
York Region												1	5											0	1	5	
Toronto											1	2	2											1	2	2	
Simcoe						1	1	1			3	4	2											4	5	3	
Western																											
Peel							1	3			4	4	1											4	5	4	
Halton													1											0	0	1	
Dufferin							2														1			0	2	1	
Wellington						2	4	5			1	2	1					1	1	1	4			4	7	11	
Waterloo						1	3	2			1	1	2	1	1			1	1	4	1			4	9	6	
Perth						1	5													1				1	6	0	
Grey			1			1		2					1		1									0	2	5	
Bruce			1				1				1	1	4											1	2	5	
Huron								2			2	2							1	1				3	3	2	

Animal Rabies Report: July to September 2007

Animal Type	Fox		Raccoon		Skunk		Other Wildlife		Bat		Dog		Cat		Livestock		Totals		
County or Region	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#
	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07	06	07
Southern																			
Wentworth									3	4							3	4	0
Haldimand-Norfolk									1	2	1						1	2	1
Brant																	0	0	0
Niagara									4	6	4						4	6	4
Elgin											1						0	0	1
Oxford					1				1	1							1	2	0
Middlesex									2	2	3						2	2	3
Lambton									1	2	2						1	2	2
Kent									1	1							1	1	0
Essex																	0	0	0
Northern																			
Muskoka									1	1	1						1	1	1
Parry Sound																	0	0	0
Nipissing																	0	0	0
Sudbury									1	1							1	1	0
Cochrane																	0	0	0
Timiskaming																	0	0	0
Algoma									1	1							1	1	0
Thunder Bay																	0	0	0
Rainy River																	0	0	0
Kenora																	0	0	0
Regional Totals																			
Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	11	17	17	0	0	0	0
Western	0	0	2	0	0	1	4	17	14	0	0	0	9	10	10	1	2	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	18	11	0	0	0	0
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	2	0	0	1	5	19	15	0	0	0	43	57	39	1	2	0	0

Notes for this quarter: The livestock were all bovine except for a donkey in Wellington County. All of the bats were big brown bats except for a hoary bat in Peterborough County, and one little brown bat each in Algoma, Bruce, Leeds-Grenville, Peterborough, Simcoe, and Sudbury counties.

