

The Rabies Reporter

MNR Publication 51709

Volume 16, Number 1

ISSN 1705-2106



Inside this issue:

Rabies in Ontario during the first quarter

1

Rabies During the First Quarter

There were 13 cases of rabies diagnosed in wild animals and 10 cases in domestic animals in the first quarter of 2005 in Ontario. This is two less than last year at this time and one more than the last quarter of 2004. Most reported cases (15) came from the western region of the province. There were no reported cases in northern Ontario.

Typically, March and April are significant months for terrestrial rabies cases due to the increased transmission possibilities during the mating season. Despite this, there were fewer cases reported in March 2005 (6) compared to January (8) and February 2005 (9).

There have been no reported cases of raccoon strain rabies since September 2004. There were only two cases in all of 2004. However, a rabid raccoon with arctic/fox strain rabies occurred in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo during this quarter.

During the summer of 2005, the Rabies Research and Development Unit will implement the Trap-Vaccinate-Release (TVR) program in the area surrounding last year's raccoon rabies cases near Mallorytown in eastern Ontario. TVR will also be conducted in the Niagara area in southern Ontario. These programs will further prevent the expansion of raccoon strain rabies in Ontario. To this, there will also be aerial and hand distribution of baits during the oral rabies vaccination programs in the St. Lawrence area in eastern region.

There were 5 rabid bats from across the province in the first quarter, which is expectedly lower than the last quarter (9) but higher than the first quarter of 2004 (2). Bat cases are typically low during this time of year due to winter hibernation.

One rabid fox was reported from Dufferin County in this quarter, which is the same number as this time last year. There was a rabid fox in Perth County in the first quarter of 2004.

One rabid dog was reported in this quarter in Dufferin County, which is one more than in 2004.

There were 6 rabid skunks reported in Simcoe and Wellington Counties in the first quarter, which is two more than during the first quarter of 2004. However, there were 9 rabid skunks reported in the last quarter of 2004. These rabid skunks are a continuation of the focus of rabid skunks with 'arctic' strain rabies in the western counties of Huron, Bruce, Grey, Perth, Wellington, Waterloo, Dufferin and Peel Counties and, more recently, the central county of Simcoe. 'Arctic' strain rabies has persisted only in this area of Ontario despite rabies control efforts which may be a result of higher skunk densities in this region. Current vaccines are not effective in skunks.

During the first quarter of 2004, 68% of reported rabies cases occurred in cattle. In the first quarter of 2005, 39% of cases were bovine. All bovine rabies cases to date in 2005 were clustered in Peel and Dufferin Counties in western Ontario. The concentration of livestock rabies in those areas is probably due to the persisting focus of rabid skunks (described above) and the high possibility of livestock coming in contact with skunks and other wildlife. Rabies cases in livestock tend to be clustered due to one rabid wild animal being able to infect multiple domestic animals due to their proximity to each other.

Val von Zuben

RRDU

Peterborough, ON

HOW TO REACH US:

Rabies Research and Development Unit
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 4840
Peterborough, ON K9J 8N8
Canada

Office phone: 705-755-2272
Office fax: 705-755-2276
Email: beverly.stevenson@mnr.gov.on.ca

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:

The Rabies Reporter
Rabies Research &
Development Unit
Ontario Ministry of Natural
Resources,
P.O. Box 4840
Peterborough, ON K9J 8N8

Visit: www.gis.queensu.ca/RRReporter/ or
rabies.mnr.gov.on.ca

Animal Rabies Report: January to March 2005

Animal Type	Fox		Raccoon		Skunk		Other Wildlife		Bat		Dog		Cat		Livestock		Totals				
County or Region	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative			
		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04	05	04	
Eastern																					
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry										1	1								1	1	0
Prescott-Russell																			0	0	0
Ottawa-Carleton										1	1	1							1	1	1
Renfrew																			0	0	0
Lanark																			0	0	0
Leeds and Grenville																			0	0	0
Frontenac																			0	0	0
Lennox & Addington																			0	0	0
Central																					
Hastings																			0	0	0
Prince Edward																			0	0	0
Northumberland																			0	0	0
Victoria																			0	0	0
Haliburton																			0	0	0
Peterborough																			0	0	0
Durham																			0	0	0
York Region																			0	0	0
Toronto																			0	0	0
Simcoe						5	5	1									9	5	5	10	
Western																					
Peel										1	1					3	3		4	4	0
Halton																			0	0	0
Dufferin	1	1					1					1	1			6	6		8	8	1
Wellington						1	1										1		1	1	1
Waterloo				1	1														1	1	0
Perth			1							1	1								1	1	1
Grey						1		1									6		0	0	8
Bruce								1									1		0	0	2
Huron																			0	0	0

Animal Rabies Report: January to March 2005

Animal Type	Fox		Raccoon		Skunk		Other Wildlife		Bat		Dog		Cat		Livestock		Totals													
County or Region	#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative		#	Cumulative										
		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04		05	04									
Southern																														
Wentworth																						0	0	0						
Haldimand-Norfolk																							0	0	0					
Brant																							0	0	0					
Niagara																							0	0	0					
Elgin																							0	0	0					
Oxford											1	1											1	1	0					
Middlesex													1										0	0	1					
Lambton																							0	0	0					
Kent																							0	0	0					
Essex																							0	0	0					
Northern																														
Muskoka																							0	0	0					
Parry Sound																							0	0	0					
Nipissing																							0	0	0					
Sudbury																							0	0	0					
Cochrane																							0	0	0					
Timiskaming																							0	0	0					
Algoma																							0	0	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	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	5	5	10
Western	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	8	15	15	13
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6	4	0	0	0	5	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	17	23	23	25

Notes for this quarter:

All livestock were bovine. All bats were big brown bats. The raccoon in Waterloo Region was infected with Arctic strain.



