

# The Rabies Reporter

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Rabies in the First Quarter

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## Rabies in the First Quarter

In 2006, Ontario experienced the fewest number of rabies cases for the first three months of any year since rabies became established in Ontario approximately a half century ago. There have only been three other years with fewer than 20 cases during the first quarter: 1998, 1999, and 2004.

Year	1st Quarter	Annual Total
1988	428	1830
1989*	566	1870
1990	405	1611
1991	327	1234
1992	308	1371
1993	221	1241
1994	191	614
1995	68	328
1996	25	149
1997	16	96
1998	13	80
1999	13	100
2000	37	183
2001	37	210
2002	51	202
2003	20	125
2004	18	107
2005	23	96
2006	11	N/A

Figure 1. Comparison of rabies cases during the first quarter to the yearly total.

\* Large-scale aerial rabies vaccine baiting began in the fall of 1989.

There were a total of 11 confirmed cases in the first quarter of 2006 including five skunks, three bats, and three cows. Ten of the 11 cases occurred in southwestern Ontario.

The skunk cases occurred in Wellington (4) and Grey (1) counties. There was one rabid cow in Dufferin County and two in Wellington County. The rabid livestock were probably associated with rabid skunks. All of the livestock, as well as the skunks, were infected with Arctic strain rabies.

These cases indicate a southward movement of the focus of cases from 2004 and 2005. During the past two years, rabies cases have been clustered in Simcoe and Dufferin counties with the cluster of cases slowly progressing southward.

There was one rabid bat each in Toronto, Halton, and Peterborough counties. The incidence of rabid bats should increase substantially in the upcoming summer months.

If this trend continues, 2006 should have fewer than 100 cases and could be another record setting year for lowest total cases.

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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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## Animal Rabies Report: January to March 2006

Animal Type	Fox		Raccoon		Skunk		Other Wildlife		Bat		Dog		Cat		Livestock		Totals		
County or Region	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	
		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05	
<b>Eastern</b>																			
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry										1							0	0	1
Prescott-Russell																	0	0	0
Ottawa-Carleton										1							0	0	1
Renfrew																	0	0	0
Lanark																	0	0	0
Leeds and Grenville																	0	0	0
Frontenac																	0	0	0
Lennox & Addington																	0	0	0
<b>Central</b>																			
Hastings																	0	0	0
Prince Edward																	0	0	0
Northumberland																	0	0	0
Victoria																	0	0	0
Haliburton																	0	0	0
Peterborough									1	1							1	1	0
Durham																	0	0	0
York Region																	0	0	0
Toronto									1	1							1	1	0
Simcoe						5											0	0	5
<b>Western</b>																			
Peel										1						3	0	0	4
Halton									1	1							1	1	0
Dufferin		1										1			1	1	6	1	1
Wellington					4	4	1								2	2	6	6	1
Waterloo					1												0	0	1
Perth										1							0	0	1
Grey					1	1											1	1	0
Bruce																	0	0	0
Huron																	0	0	0

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Animal Type	Fox		Raccoon		Skunk		Other Wildlife		Bat		Dog		Cat		Livestock		Totals										
County or Region	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative	#	Cumulative									
		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05		06	05									
<b>Southern</b>																											
Wentworth																			0	0	0						
Haldimand-Norfolk																				0	0	0					
Brant																				0	0	0					
Niagara																				0	0	0					
Elgin																				0	0	0					
Oxford													1							0	0	1					
Middlesex																				0	0	0					
Lambton																				0	0	0					
Kent																				0	0	0					
Essex																				0	0	0					
<b>Northern</b>																											
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					
<b>Regional Totals</b>																											
<b>Eastern</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Central</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	5
<b>Western</b>	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	5	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	3	9	9	9	15
<b>Southern</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Northern</b>	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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>

Notes for this quarter:

All bats were big brown bats except for a little brown bat in Halton. The livestock were all cattle.



