

United States Department of Agriculture

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Wildlife Services

59 Chenell Dr. Suite 7 Concord, NH 03301

(603)223-6832

From: USDA-Wildlife Services

Date: June 1, 2018

Subject: Rabies Surveillance in New Hampshire

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) is conducting wildlife rabies surveillance in New Hampshire. Wildlife Services along with federal, state and local cooperators are leading a national effort to vaccinate wildlife against rabies through the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORV). The ORV program in NH is designed to stop the northern spread of the raccoon variant of rabies.

In order to evaluate the ORV program, an Enhanced Rabies Surveillance (ERS) zone has been established to detect rabies cases and verify the presence or absence of raccoon variant rabies in NH. The ERS zone not only encompasses the current ORV zone but also extends into areas north, east and south of the ORV zone (Attachment).

Surveillance is the most critical part of determining the success of ORV programs and is key to making decisions about whether ORV barriers should be moved or maintained. In order to monitor raccoon variant rabies activity in your county, USDA WS is requesting assistance with the collection of samples for rabies testing. Wildlife Services is particularly interested in the collection of carcasses of **Raccoons**, **Skunks**, **Foxes**, **Coyotes**, **Fishers**, **Woodchucks**, **and Bobcats**. Animals that were observed acting sick or unusual, and/or with lesions or porcupine quills indicative of aggressive behavior suggestive of rabies, are of special interest. Fresh road-killed animals or any animals found dead are also needed. Wildlife Services provides the attached guidance for rabies sample collection, handling and submission (Attachment).

To facilitate rabies sample collection, freezer drop-off locations have been established NHFG Region 1 & 2 offices. Carcasses will be picked up for testing by USDA WS regularly.

Wildlife Services appreciates your time and assistance with this matter and encourages you to participate in this free rabies testing service. Please feel free to disseminate this information to your cooperators and partners throughout the ERS zone to assist with identifying and combating raccoon variant rabies in New Hampshire. If you have any questions about the process or how you can further assist, please feel free to contact Colleen Marron or Carrie Stengel at (603)223-6832.



### **USDA Wildlife Services Enhanced Rabies Surveillance**

What is Enhanced Rabies Surveillance?

 Collecting samples (non-exposures) that would otherwise not be tested for rabies. Enhanced Rabies Surveillance does not include animals involved in a human and/or pet exposure situation.

What is Wildlife Services looking for?

- Sick or strange acting animals
- Animals that are found dead
- Roadkill

Primary rabies vector species of concern:

- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Covotes
- Foxes
- Bobcats
- Woodchucks

Potential sources to assist with enhanced surveillance efforts:

- County/local Health Departments
- Animal Control
- Police Departments
- Road Departments
- Sanitarians
- Veterinarians
- Parks
- Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators
- Wildlife Rehabilitators

Proper Enhanced Surveillance sample handling:

- Pick up the animal using gloves, a shovel or something similar.
- Place the animal in trash bag and tie a knot in the top of the bag.
- Fill in the **Rabies Collection Data Sheet or Rabies Collection Tag** as completely and accurately as possible. At the very least, be sure to provide the following sample information:
  - o Address or GPS location) of where animal was recovered
  - Species
  - Reason for testing (Sick or strange acting, Found Dead, Roadkill)
  - o Name of person/health department submitting the sample and a phone number
- Place **Rabies Collection Data Sheet** inside Ziploc baggy to then be placed in trash bag with sample.

OR

- Secure the **Rabies Collection Tag** to the outside of the trash bag using the attached wires.
- Drop the animal off at a collection site to be placed in the freezer until the scheduled Wildlife Services pickup.

Wildlife Services will conduct sample pickups on a minimum of a bi-weekly basis. If sample pickups are needed sooner (freezer full, etc.), please feel free to call Wildlife Services at any time.

Please call Wildlife Services at (603)223-6832 if you have any questions or need further assistance.

<sup>\*</sup>Please Note: Wildlife Services will only test Enhanced Surveillance samples. All human and/or pet exposures need to be submitted to the NH Department of Health and Human Services for testing.

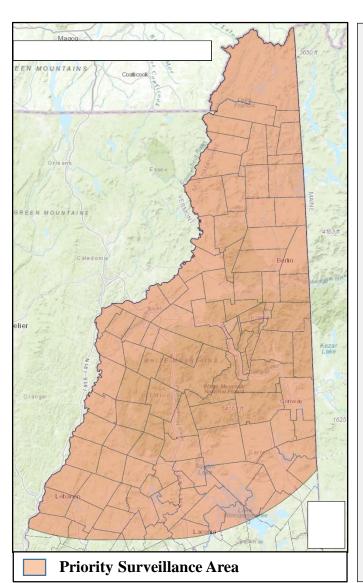
### If You See Any



## Raccoons, Skunks, Bobcats Coyotes, Foxes, Fisher or Woodchucks

Acting Strange or Roadkill USDA's Wildlife Services Wants To Know!

# Call (603)223-6832



USDA's Wildlife Services in New Hampshire is conducting rabies surveillance.

You are a critical part of this large scale effort. If you see raccoons, skunks, bobcats, coyotes or foxes acting strange (aggression, loss of fear of humans, excessive salivating, circling, lethargy, paralyzed) or roadkill, in the surveillance area, call (603) 223-6832 with the location and species.

Wildlife Services will collect samples to directly monitor wildlife rabies in New Hampshire.

ANYWHERE in the surveillance area.
ANYTIME of year.

Call Wildlife Services, (603) 223-6832.

Do not touch wild animals, alive or dead. For immediate assistance, contact your local authorities

Wildlife Services is a program of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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| Enhanced   | Rabies    | Surveillance      | by Town  |
|------------|-----------|-------------------|----------|
| Lillianico | a remotes | Sui / Cilitali CC | wy woman |

Albany Errol Monroe

Alexandria Ervings Location Moultonborough
Alton Franconia New Hampton
Ashland Franklin Northumberland

BartlettFreedomOdellBathGilfordOrangeBeans GrantGilmantonOrfordBeans PurchaseGorhamOssipeeBelmontGraftonPiermont

Benton Grantham Pinkham's Grant

Berlin Greens Grant Pittsburg
Bethlehem Groton Plainfield
Bridgewater Hadleys Purchase Plymouth
Bristol Hales Location Randolph
Cambridge Hanover Rumney

Campton Hart's Location Sanbornton
Canaan Haverhill Sandwich

Carroll Hebron Sargents Purchase Center Harbor Hill Second College

Chandlers Purchase Holderness Shelburne
Chatham Jackson Springfield
Clarksville Jefferson Stark

ColebrookKilkennyStewartstownColumbiaLaconiaStratfordConwayLancasterSuccessCornishLandaffSugar HillCrawfords PurchaseLebanonTamworth

Cutts Grant Lincoln Thompson & Meserve

DaltonLisbonThorntonDanburyLittletonTuftonboroDixs GrantLivermoreWarren

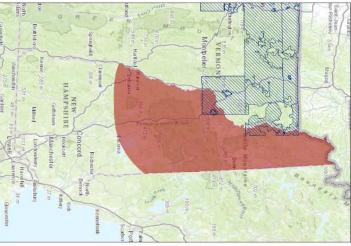
Dixville Low & Burbanks Waterville Valley

Dorchester Lyman Wentworth

Dummer Lyme Wentworths Location

Easton Madison Whitefield
Eaton Martins Location Wilmot
Effingham Meredith Wolfeboro
Ellsworth Milan Woodstock

Enfield Millsfield Woodstoc





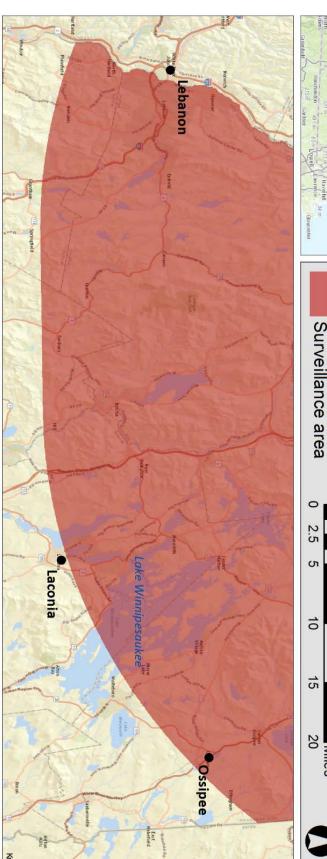
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services ● 59 Chenell Drive, Suite 7 ● Concord, NH ● 603.223.6832

I-89 ERS Zone: 43.7 MM-Northward

I-93 ERS Zone: 61.8 MM Northward

everything north of Lebanon-Laconia-Ossipee arc Rabies surveillance area for northern New Hampshire:

Interested in raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, fishers and woodchucks



### Flowchart Enhanced Rabies Surveillance

#### DID AN EXPOSURE TO RABIES OCCUR? **BITE:** Did animal's teeth penetrate the skin of Contact the state or county health the patient/pet? department for assistance Non-bite: Did animal's saliva or neural tissue make contact immediately. with the patient/pet's mucous membranes or broken skin? YES Unrecognized (bats only): Did the bat make direct contact State Department of Health: (603)271-4496 with the patient/pet, or was the bat found in a bedroom when the patient was sleeping, or was the bat found in a room with a child or other person unable to communicate potential exposure? Sick or Strange-acting: Dispatch and put in NHFG wildlife freezer. Call NH WS office for guidance 603-223-6832 NO Alive: Contact local animal control for potential assistance with wild animals and for domestic animals. Is the animal within the WS Enhanced Rabies Surveillance area? Please see the attached map. Dead: Collect and put in wildlife freezer at NHFG **NO** Region 1 or 2 offices **YES** Avoid direct contact with carcass. (Use shovel or heavy duty gloves!) Is the animal's head (brain) viable for testing? **Decomposed**: Dispose carcass. (Bury The carcass should be "fresh" with minimal decay, relatively underground 18" to 24") Do not bury the carcass whole head, and short duration of time animal has been in a plastic bag. deceased (weather dependent). NO Raccoons, skunks, foxes, covotes, fisher, woodchuck and Avoid direct contact with carcass. (Use bobcats are high priority! shovel or heavy duty gloves!) YES Samples should be collected as soon as possible! Alive: Animal will need to be euthanized. If the sample cannot be frozen, then it needs to be collected within 1-3 days. Keep the sample cool DO NOT SHOOT ANIMAL IN THE HEAD, IF POSSIBLE! by placing it in the shade, storing it in a cooler or Sample **Dead**: Arrange for collection and transport by calling the drop off at a freezer location. WS rabies office for testing. Record contact information and **Preservation** Contact the WS Office for guidance: 603animal collection information (Date, Location, and GPS 223-6832 coordinates if available). Example provided.