



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Wildlife Services

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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

***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.**

Primary rabies vector species of concern:

- Raccoons
- Skunks
- Coyotes
- 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:
 - **Address or GPS location)of where animal was recovered**
 - **Species**
 - **Reason for testing (Sick or strange acting, Found Dead, Roadkill)**
 - **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.
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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.

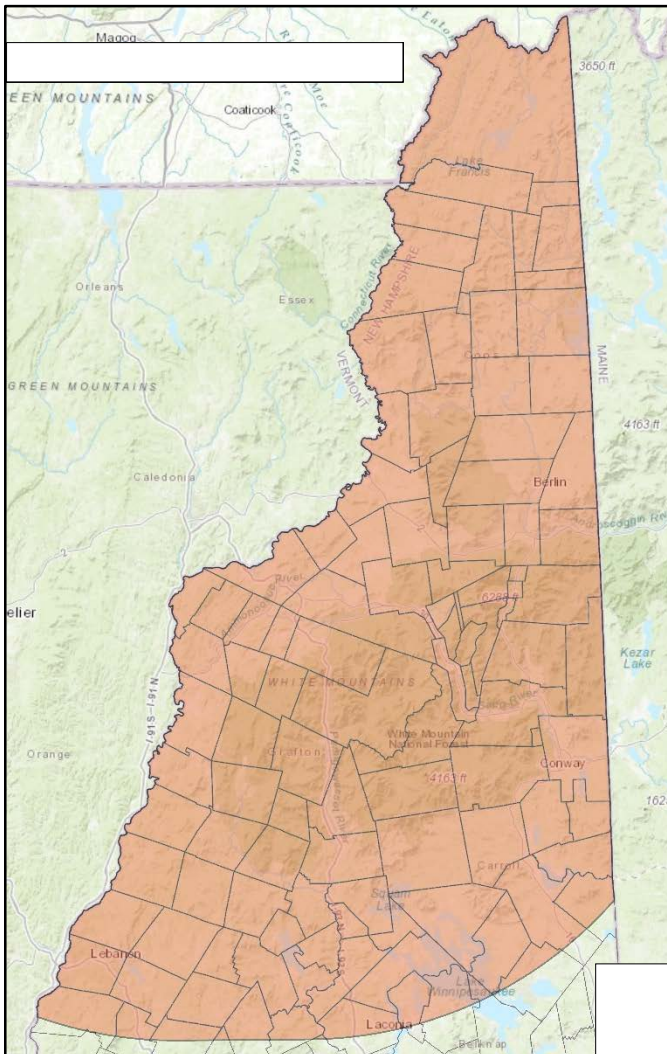
Please call Wildlife Services at **(603)223-6832** if you have any questions or need further assistance.

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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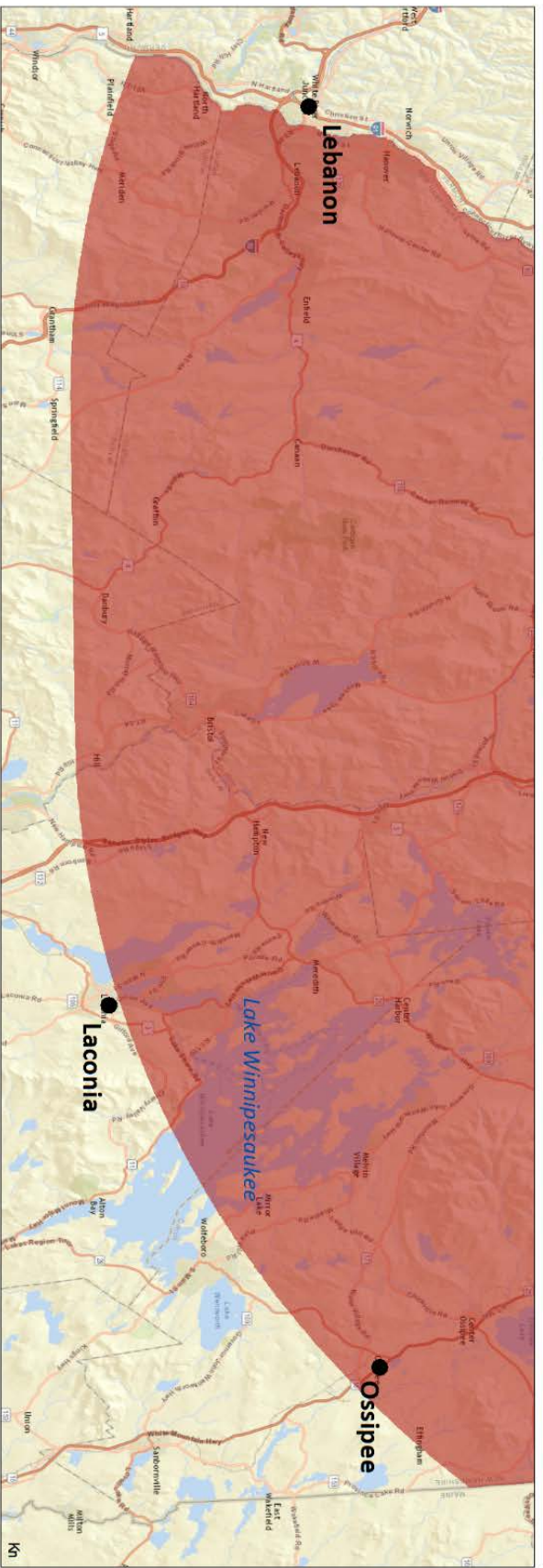
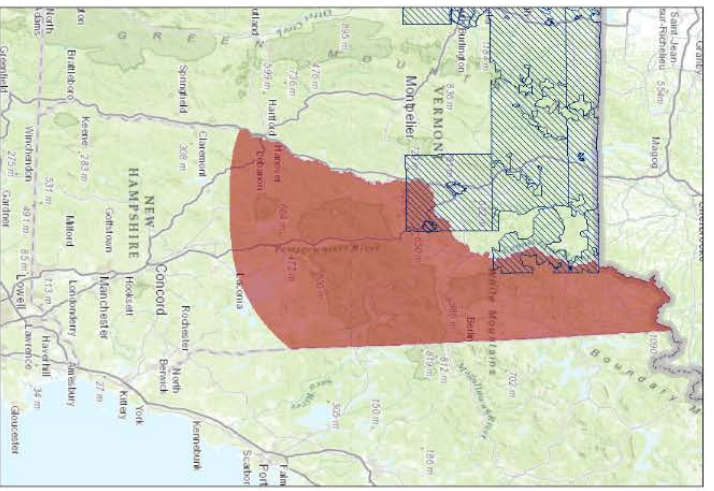
Enhanced Rabies Surveillance by Town

Albany	Errol	Monroe
Alexandria	Erving's Location	Moultonborough
Alton	Franconia	New Hampton
Ashland	Franklin	Northumberland
Bartlett	Freedom	Odell
Bath	Gilford	Orange
Beans Grant	Gilmanton	Orford
Beans Purchase	Gorham	Ossipee
Belmont	Grafton	Piermont
Benton	Grantham	Pinkham's Grant
Berlin	Greens Grant	Pittsburg
Bethlehem	Groton	Plainfield
Bridgewater	Hadley's 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
Chandler's Purchase	Holderness	Shelburne
Chatham	Jackson	Springfield
Clarksville	Jefferson	Stark
Colebrook	Kilkenny	Stewartstown
Columbia	Laconia	Stratford
Conway	Lancaster	Success
Cornish	Landaff	Sugar Hill
Crawfords Purchase	Lebanon	Tamworth
Cutts Grant	Lincoln	Thompson & Meserve
Dalton	Lisbon	Thornton
Danbury	Littleton	Tuftonboro
Dix's Grant	Livermore	Warren
Dixville	Low & Burbanks	Waterville Valley
Dorchester	Lyman	Wentworth
Dummer	Lyme	Wentworth's Location
Easton	Madison	Whitefield
Eaton	Martins Location	Wilmot
Effingham	Meredith	Wolfeboro
Ellsworth	Milan	Woodstock
Enfield	Millsfield	

I-89 ERS Zone: 43.7 MM-Northward
I-93 ERS Zone: 61.8 MIM Northward

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

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



Flowchart Enhanced Rabies Surveillance

