Rabies in Maine: 1998-2008

Rabies is a fatal disease of the central nervous system. It is a highly fatal virus that is most commonly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected animal. Raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats are the most common carriers of the disease in Maine. The disease can be spread via contact with an infected animal's tissues or saliva. The disease is highly contagious to humans, but uncommon, with the vast majority of cases occurring in pets, especially wildlife. Tests are conducted every year by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that rabies is not rapidly spreading since it is easily passed by fluids, or tissues touching broken skin or mucous membranes. In the past ten years, the DHHS found 1,236 positive cases of rabies in Maine. This map shows the number, location and type of certain animals found with rabies by county in Maine for the entire decade. It displays the top four species, raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes, found with rabies. These four account for 96% of positive cases in Maine.

Legend
- Fox
- Bat
- Skunk
- Raccoon

Map Source: Health and Environmental Testing Lab and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services Positive Rabies Cases
Maine Office of GIS (http://apollo.ogis.state.me.us/catalog/)
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