

# MARYLAND BULLETIN



March 2, 2021 Volume 11, Issue 1

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Jurisdiction affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment

## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

**Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events**

**For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:**

MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: [ahops.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:ahops.mda@maryland.gov), 410-841-5810

MDH - Maryland Department of Health, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: [mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov), 410-767-5649

MD DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 410-226-5193

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) receives reports of wildlife disease cases via the 24/7 toll-free MD Natural Resources Police Call Center:

1-800-628-9944, the USDA/MD DNR Call Center: 1-877-463-6497, or the MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service office in Annapolis 1-410-260-8540.

### *Reporting of Animal Bites and Suspect Rabies Cases*

We would like to remind the Maryland veterinary community of the obligation to report mammal bite/scratch incidents and suspect animal rabies cases identified during veterinary office visits. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Rabies section, 10.06.02 details regulations governing the reporting, monitoring, and management of animal rabies cases and it can be referenced at: <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/COMAR/ComarHome.html>.

Veterinary staff are encouraged to contact their local health department regarding animal bites, rabies specimen submission, or general rabies questions. Contact information for all 24 Maryland Local Health Departments is available at: <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/IDEHSharedDocuments/Maryland-Local-Health-Department-Contact-Information.pdf>.

For guidance on the procedures and criteria for submitting animals to the Maryland Public Health Rabies Lab, please refer to the Rabies Specimen Submission Policy at <https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/Rabies-Animal-DFA.aspx>.

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
Domestic animals	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 <a href="http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx">http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx</a>
Humans	MDH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 <a href="https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx">https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx</a>
Wildlife	MD DNR/USDA Call Center 877-463-6497



Maryland Department of Agriculture



Maryland Department of Health



Maryland Department of Natural Resources



## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

### ***Identification of Good Samaritans***

There may be instances in which a Good Samaritan presents a stray/injured animal or wildlife to your veterinary practice for care. Any mammal, especially those that present with a wound of unknown origin, exhibit neurologic signs, or demonstrate signs of aggressive or unusual behavior should be treated as a suspect for rabies infection.

When these animals are checked in, it is important that all facility staff exposed to the animal wear appropriate personal protective equipment\* and that the front desk staff obtain the name, address, and phone number of the individual surrendering the animal. There have been several instances in which an animal, brought to a Maryland veterinary clinic or hospital by an unknown individual, either died or was euthanized and later confirmed rabid. Risk assessment and rabies postexposure prophylaxis recommendations for the Good Samaritan were delayed until local animal control and public health officials could identify the individual using media alerts, social media, and other public messaging.

We ask our veterinary partners to collect contact information for all individuals who present stray/injured animals or wildlife to allow for proper follow up in the event that rabies is identified. This action will ensure that public health actions can be taken in a timely manner and prevent the expenditure of additional resources to identify the exposed individuals.

\*The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel details routine infection prevention practices designed to minimize transmission of zoonotic pathogens from animals to veterinary personnel. The document is available at: <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf>.

### ***Reminder: Fillable Form Available for Submission of Rabies Vaccine Delay Requests***

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is pleased to announce that we now offer a fillable form that veterinarians may use to submit a Request for Rabies Vaccination Delay. The Maryland Request for Rabies Vaccination Delay form allows veterinarians to request a permanent or temporary delay of future rabies vaccinations for a Maryland dog, cat, or ferret due to medical or safety concerns. In addition to the printable request forms that have been previously available, a new fillable form has been posted on the MDH Rabies website under the subheading “For Veterinarians” at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>. Direct link to the form submission: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/MDH3/MarylandRequestForRabiesVaccinationDelay>

Please click on the link entitled “Request for Rabies Vaccine Delay (online form)” on the above website. This new fillable version of the form will streamline the submission process by allowing the submitter to complete the form entirely online and send it to our office electronically (no need for printing or faxing). We encourage any veterinarian who wishes to submit a Rabies Vaccination Delay request to use the fillable form if possible. Please contact the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases at 410-767-5649 with any questions.

### ***Wild Animals and Hybrids: Laws and Recommendations for Rabies Prevention***

Vaccinating wildlife or hybrids does not completely protect them from rabies. According to Part II. D. in the NASPHV 2016 Rabies Compendium “The safety and efficacy of parenteral rabies vaccines in wild and wild animal hybrids have not been established, and no rabies vaccines are currently licensed for use in these animals. Thus, any use of rabies vaccines in the animals is considered extra-label use.” Veterinarians administering parenteral rabies vaccine to wildlife, wolf/dog, and wild cat/domestic cat crosses should inform owners of the issues regarding extra-label use of rabies vaccine in these species and should advise them that according to Maryland law, MD Criminal Code 10-621; MDDNR COMAR 08.03.09.03, possession of wild animals or hybrids is prohibited.

There is also no established quarantine period for wolf or feline hybrids after bite contact or non-bite contact with humans. Wolf or feline hybrids should be handled the same as a wild animal in the event of human bite contact or non-bite contact, regardless of vaccination history.

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) - Position on Canine Hybrids  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/position-canine-hybrids>



## MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2021

**Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending February 27, 2021**

Jurisdiction	Bat Total (New)	Cat Total (New)	Cow Total (New)	Dog Total (New)	Fox Total (New)	Groundhog Total (New)	Raccoon Total (New)	Skunk Total (New)	Other Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany										
Anne Arundel										
Baltimore		1(1)					3(3)			4(4)
Baltimore City										
Calvert										
Caroline										
Carroll							1(1)			1(1)
Cecil										
Charles										
Dorchester		1(1)					1(1)			2(2)
Frederick										
Garrett										
Harford							1(1)			1(1)
Howard										
Kent										
Montgomery		1(1)					3(3)			4(4)
Prince George's							1(1)			1(1)
Queen Anne's										
Saint Mary's		1(1)								1(1)
Somerset										
Talbot										
Washington										
Wicomico		1(1)								1(1)
Worcester										
Total (New)		5(5)					10(10)			15(15)

Other:

For complete animal rabies data:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Data-and-Statistics.aspx>

To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:

<https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/PHPSA.aspx>

National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc>

U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information>

Maryland Department of Health Weekly Influenza Report:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>