



## Texas Department of State Health Services

John Hellerstedt, M.D.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region7/default.shtm>

Commissioner

Sharon K. Melville, M.D.,  
M.P.H.

Regional Medical Director

2408 S. 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
Temple, Texas 76504  
(254) 778-6744

### Animal Rabies in Central Texas, Year End Report, 2016

Health Service Region 7 (HSR7) Zoonosis Control investigated **474 positive and non-negative animal rabies laboratory reports** from January 1 – December 31, 2016. Past years' animal rabies numbers may be found at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/cases/statistics/>.

HSR7 staff and local animal control officers collectively investigated **342 laboratory-confirmed positive rabies cases** within the 30-county area of HSR7. **Forty (40) persons and 274 animals were exposed or potentially exposed to these rabid animals.**

HSR7 staff and local animal control officers collectively investigated an additional **132 non-positive, non-negative (“decomposed” and “destroyed”) rabies cases. Eleven (11) people and 76 animals were exposed or potentially exposed to these rabies suspect animals.**

Most persons determined to be exposed or potentially exposed to rabies from these cases received postexposure rabies vaccinations from local health care providers. Animals exposed to rabid animals were processed by Local Rabies Control Authorities in accordance with the Rabies Control and Eradication Rules, Section 169.30, and either: (1) vaccinated and confined at home for either 45 or 90 days, according to the animals' vaccination status at the time of exposure, or (2) humanely euthanized.

Of the **342 positive** cases, rabies was detected in **60 skunks, 255 bats, 6 cats, 1 dog, 1 horse, 3 raccoons, 12 foxes, 1 bobcat, 1 bushbuck and 2 cows.**

All of the rabid domestic and companion animal cases have been acquired through contact with rabid skunks. However, we did have a rabid fox that has spill over from a Mexican free-tailed bat in October.

The 342 positive rabies cases in Health Service Region 7 represent the most rabies cases investigated in 2016 by any DSHS Regional Zoonosis Control Program.

HSR7 Zoonosis Control personnel could not have met the time-sensitive investigation requirements of these cases without the help of animal control officers, veterinarians, peace officers, health care providers and others. Their prompt responses no doubt saved human and animal lives during the past year.

The 2016 rabies cases are recorded in the “Positive Animal Rabies Cases, Three-Year Comparison, 2014, 2015, 2016” table and are depicted on the map “Health Service Region 7, Positive Animal Rabies Cases, January 1 – December 31, 2016”. Please note the map displays cases based on longitude and latitude coordinates. Because some counties’ cases occurred in close proximity to each other, some individual map symbols may not be distinguishable.

[Note: The rabies data presented in this document were obtained through a passive reporting system and may be subject to change. The data was based solely on the results of animals submitted for rabies testing. There were many more animals (particularly wildlife) that died of rabies that were not submitted for rabies testing.]

**\*\*\*Rabies is endemic in Central Texas, and ALL Health Service Region 7 counties have rabies risk.**

### **E-MAIL ALERTS**

If you know of others in your agency or community who want to know about animal rabies events in Central Texas, encourage them to share their contact information and e-mail address with us at 254/ 778-6744, ext. 6784 or [HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us).

Please use the [HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:HSR7.ZOO@dshs.state.tx.us) address when making general inquiries to the Zoonosis Control (ZC) program. All ZC staff has access to this email account, so messages may be received and processed by anyone on duty. Responses to emails sent to individual email addresses (below) may be delayed, when that individual is unavailable.

**HSR7 Zoonosis Control Program Personnel (Temple, TX): Stay in Touch**

Melinda Hergert, DVM, MVPH, PhD	Zoonosis Control Veterinarian	<a href="mailto:Melinda.Hergert@dshs.state.tx.us">Melinda.Hergert@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Melissa D. Maass, LVT	Program Specialist	<a href="mailto:Melissa.Maass@dshs.state.tx.us">Melissa.Maass@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Jacob Ogdee, MS	Program Specialist	<a href="mailto:Jacob.Ogdee@dshs.state.tx.us">Jacob.Ogdee@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Misty Warner	Program Specialist	<a href="mailto:Misty.Warner@dshs.state.tx.us">Misty.Warner@dshs.state.tx.us</a>
Jason Daniel	Public Health Specialist	<a href="mailto:Jason.Daniel@dshs.state.tx.us">Jason.Daniel@dshs.state.tx.us</a>



DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, REGION 7 (CENTRAL TEXAS)  
 POSITIVE ANIMAL RABIES CASES, THREE YEAR COMPARISON 2014, 2015, 2016



Year 2014

County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species
BASTROP	8			3		11
BELL	4	1		12	2	19
BLANCO					1	1
BOSQUE	1			1	1	3
BRAZOS	1	1		5		7
BURLESON				1		1
BURNET	7	1		14	9	31
CALDWELL	2					2
CORYELL		1		7	4	12
FALLS				1		1
FAYETTE				1		1
FREESTONE			2	6		8
GRIMES						0
HAMILTON	1			2		3
HAYS	26					26
HILL		1	1	11		13
LAMPASAS				1		1
LEE				2		2
LEON		1		3		4
LIMESTONE				1		1
LLANO	2	1		36	6	45
MADISON				2		2
MCLENNAN	1	1	1	13	2	18
MILAM	2					2
MILLS		1		3	3	7
ROBERTSON				2		2
SAN SABA				1	5	6
TRAVIS	115					115
WASHINGTON				7	1	8
WILLIAMSON	154			8	1	163
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>515</b>

\*Others:

Bell: 1 fox; 1 raccoon; Blanco: 1 raccoon; Bosque: 1 cow; Burnet: 8 foxes, 1 raccoon; Coryell: 1 cow, 3 raccoons; Llano: 2 foxes, 4 raccoons; McLennan: 1 horse, 1 raccoon; Mills: 3 raccoons; San Saba: 2 cows, 2 foxes, 1 goat; Washington: 1 cow; Williamson: 1 cow

Year 2015

County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species
BASTROP	3			1		4
BELL	1	1	1	15		18
BLANCO						0
BOSQUE		1	1	1		3
BRAZOS				10		10
BURLESON				1		1
BURNET	9			5	5	19
CALDWELL	2			1		3
CORYELL				8		8
FALLS						0
FAYETTE						0
FREESTONE		1		4		5
GRIMES						0
HAMILTON				5	1	6
HAYS	20					20
HILL				1		1
LAMPASAS				4	2	6
LEE				4		4
LEON				1	1	2
LIMESTONE				4		4
LLANO	2			20	6	28
MADISON				1		1
MCLENNAN	3			21	2	26
MILAM						0
MILLS		1		4	2	7
ROBERTSON						0
SAN SABA				3	1	4
TRAVIS	101		1	1	1	104
WASHINGTON	1			14	1	16
WILLIAMSON	85	1		7		93
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>393</b>

\*Others:

Burnet: 4 foxes, 1 raccoon; Hamilton: 1 raccoon; Lampasas: 1 fox, 1 raccoon; Leon: 1 fox; Llano: 2 fox, 1 pig, 3 raccoons; McLennan: 1 cow, 1 raccoon; Mills: 2 raccoons; San Saba: 1 raccoon; Travis: 1 raccoon; Washington: 1 fox

January 1 - December 31, 2016

County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species
BASTROP	6			2		8
BELL	1			4	1	6
BLANCO	2			2		4
BOSQUE						0
BRAZOS	4			3		7
BURLESON				2		2
BURNET	8	1		5	1	15
CALDWELL	2					2
CORYELL				3		3
FALLS						0
FAYETTE						0
FREESTONE		1		1		2
GRIMES	1					1
HAMILTON				2	1	3
HAYS	21					21
HILL		1		2	1	4
LAMPASAS		1		3	1	5
LEE			1			1
LEON						0
LIMESTONE				1		1
LLANO	1			13	5	19
MADISON						0
MCLENNAN	1			4	1	6
MILAM				1		1
MILLS		1		1	3	5
ROBERTSON	1					1
SAN SABA		1		3	2	6
TRAVIS	113				2	115
WASHINGTON	2			1		3
WILLIAMSON	92			7	2	101
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>342</b>

\*Others:

Bell: 1 Horse; Burnet: 1 Fox; Hamilton: 1 Raccoon; Hill: 1 Bovine; Lampasas: 1 Raccoon; Llano: 1 Bobcat, 4 Foxes; McLennan: 1 Bovine; Mills: 1 Bushbuck, 1 Fox, 1 Raccoon; San Saba: 2 Foxes; Travis: 2 Foxes; Williamson: 2 Foxes

# Health Service Region 7

## Positive Animal Rabies Cases

### Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2016

**Species**  
**Total = 342**

-  Bat (255)
-  Bobcat (1)
-  Bovine (2)
-  Bush Buck (1)
-  Cat (6)
-  Dog (1)
-  Equine (1)
-  Fox (12)
-  Raccoon (3)
-  Skunk (60)

