

Overview and Impacts of the Rabies Outbreak

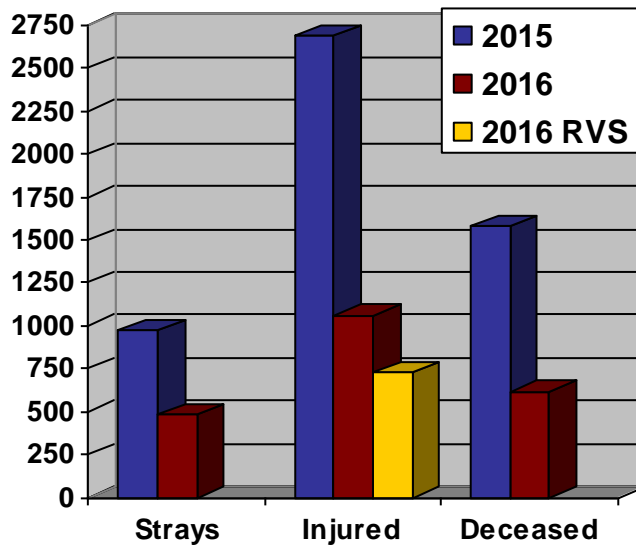
Hamilton Animal Services:

Responds to all calls related to animals:

- Strays (except cats)
- Injured animals (domestic and wild)
- Deceased rabies vector animals (**RVS**)
- Deceased animals (domestic and wild)
- Enforcement (DOLA, Municipal By-laws, Livestock Evaluations)

# Calls responded to, per year	2015	2016 From January to April 22
<i>Strays</i>	971	485
<i>Injured (domestic & wild)</i>	2684	731 RVS, 330 other
<i>Deceased (domestic & wild)</i>	1579	617

Animal Services Calls



What is Rabies?

Rabies is caused by a virus. Any warm-blooded animal can get rabies, including humans. Rabies is a **preventable** viral disease that infects the central nervous system and without prevention treatments, it is usually **fatal**.

Rabies is found more commonly in these animals than others:

- Bats
- Raccoons
- Foxes
- Skunks

How is Rabies Transmitted and Spread?

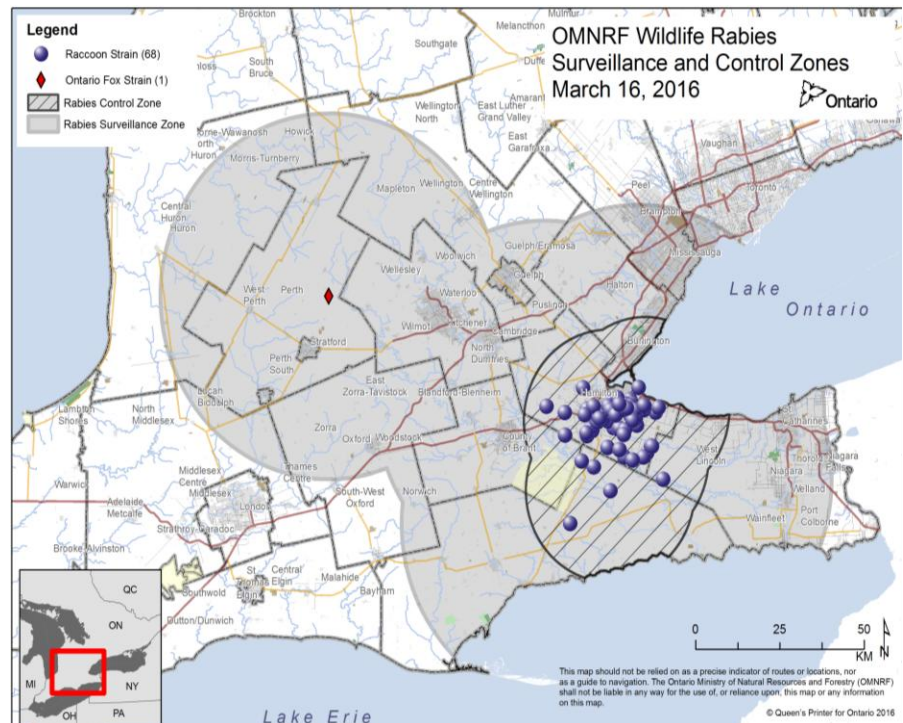
Rabies is transmitted **through saliva**, primarily via **bite** wounds. It can also be spread when infected saliva comes into contact with a **scratch, open wound**, or the mucous membranes of the **mouth, nasal cavity, or eyes**. When the virus enters an animal's body, it moves through the nerves to the brain, where it multiplies quickly. The virus then spreads to the salivary glands and other parts of the body.

The incubation period (from initial exposure to clinical symptoms) may range from **two weeks** to **many months**. It can depend on a number of factors, including the strain of rabies and the location of the bite. Though animals are not considered infectious during the incubation period, it is important to note that they may be able to transmit the disease several days before showing clinical signs.

Rabies Coverage Area

Legend

-  Raccoon Strain (68)
-  Ontario Fox Strain (1)
-  Rabies Control Zone
-  Rabies Surveillance Zone



Breakdown of Results

To date, **778** rabies vector species have been sent to MNRF.

11% of animals sent are positive for rabies.

Of the 11% positive animals for rabies, **55 (65%)** raccoons and **29 (35%)** skunks have tested positive (as of April 22, 2016.)

62% of the positives have come from deceased animals.

38% of the positives have come from animals euthanized for health reasons.

