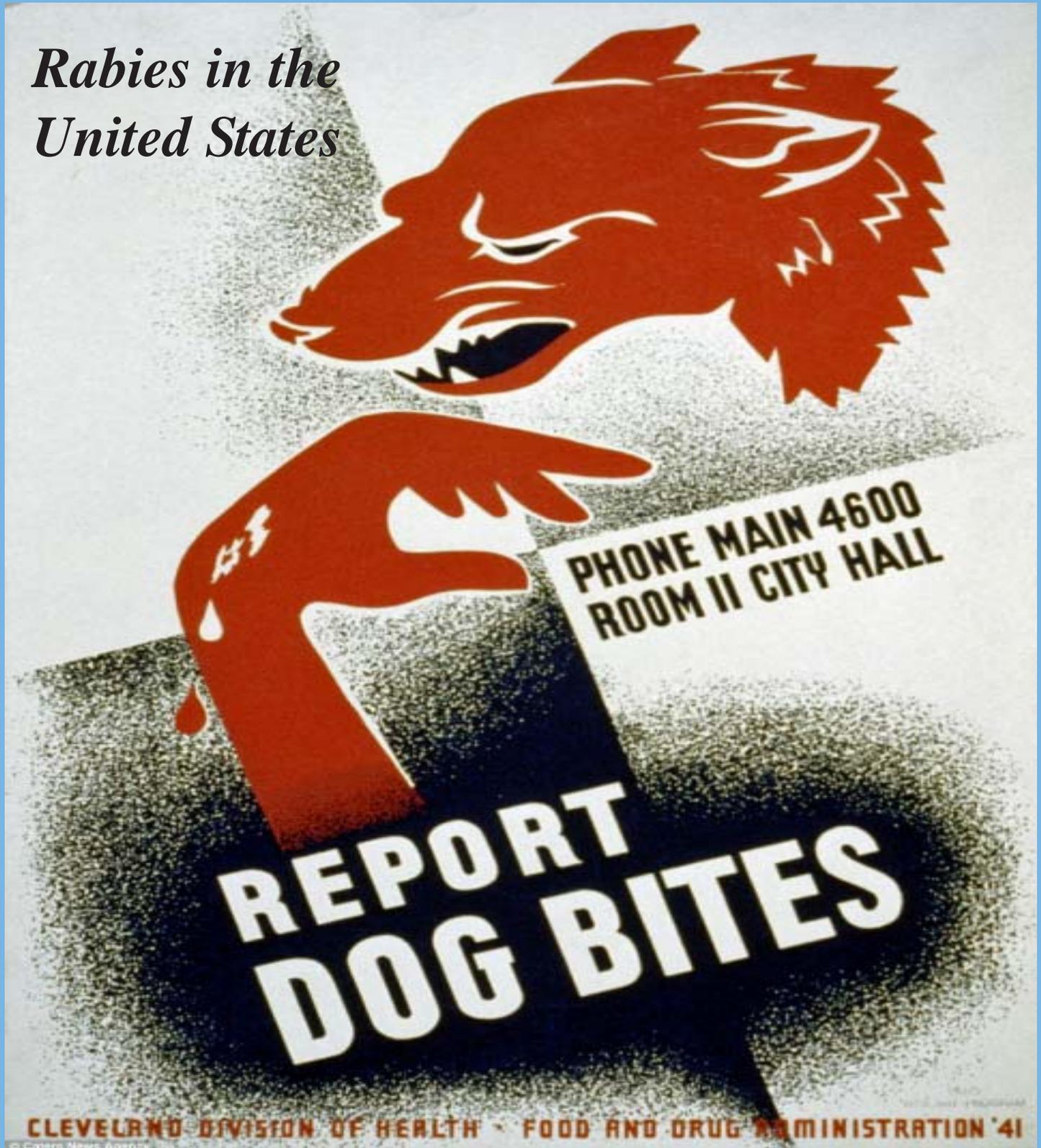


November 2016

The ACO Voice

A Monthly Magazine from Animal Control Training Services
The Only National Monthly Magazine Dedicated to Animal Control

Rabies in the United States



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**REPORT
DOG BITES**

CLEVELAND DIVISION OF HEALTH • FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION '41

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Training: A Must for Animal Control

By Lauren Malmberg

Those of us in animal control – whether new to the field or a longtime veteran – recognize the need for appropriate training and orientation for animal control officers when they begin a new job. We also know that continuing education makes a difference between a burned out government worker and an enthusiastic public servant. While we all recognize this need, we also must deal with the reality of budgetary restraints, lack of support from governing boards, and the accessibility of effective training.

We can overcome this impediment. Individually, and as a group, we can demonstrate the need for training, develop options to provide training economically, and elevate the image of animal control all at once. Some states and organizations are already doing this. Texas, Florida, and others require training and certification of animal control officers. Some of the bigger animal control agencies require and provide hours of instruction before an animal control officer can take to the field. And groups like ACTS have created programs of essential training that can be adapted to any locale. As important as training is for the new ACO, it's also imperative that those who've been doing the job get continuing education – not only will they learn about new equipment, ideas, and procedures – it can energize and motivate someone who may be getting a bit burned out.

As an industry, animal control must work together to advocate for uniform standards of training. While it seems like a huge undertaking, everyone can help by working toward this goal in their own organizations, communities and states. Where do you start?

1. As an animal control officer, seek out all the resources you can. Preparing yourself for this work is your responsibility as well as your employer's. If you're not offered specific training at your workplace, look for state associations or even national ones that offer resources online or regional training. Make connections with other animal control agencies and learn from them. Many agencies will allow a "ride-along" so you can see how they conduct business. Instead of re-inventing the wheel, take what you like from others and adapt such procedures or processes for your own use.

2. As an animal control executive, it is incumbent upon you to provide effective training for staff. While budgets grow tighter and tighter, you must still afford to train staff to perform their duties appropriately and safely. Animal control is often in the public eye, and your officers' skill and actions will

constantly be under scrutiny. They must behave proficiently, professionally, and compassionately to achieve and retain the public's trust.

Many affordable and accessible training opportunities exist – from national organizations as well as state associations. You can also develop your own curriculum using resources easily found online or from other agencies. Your relationships with other animal control leaders can put you in a position to affect training in your state and even in your own community. Make those connections with others in our field to find protocols, training processes and operation manuals. You can even pool your resources with other agencies to bring professional training to your region – share the cost and the training.

3. An effective state association of animal control will have at its core the commitment to provide training and resources to its members and everyone in animal control. Using the dues paid by members, associations can sponsor annual conferences for education and training. They can also, through networking, share resources and offer guidance to agencies and individuals searching for information.

4. A state association can also draft legislation and programming to provide training and ultimately certification of animal control officers in their state. This certification would go a long way to improving the image of animal control, increasing the professionalism of the field, and providing safe and humane treatment of people and animals.

While it may seem like a daunting task, finding and partaking of good training can be achieved by everyone. Groups like Animal Control Training Services provide workshops led by experienced trainers at an affordable cost. National organizations – National Animal Care and Control Association and the ASPCA – can provide manuals, webinars, procedures, and protocols that you can emulate and use. Your state or regional professional association will often sponsor one-day training opportunities or an annual conference that can be incredibly affordable. Local law enforcement – municipal police or sheriff's department – may also have a training officer who could help you with training on issues like Officer Safety, Self-Defense, and more. And, as always, using others who've been doing the work awhile can get you started – do a job shadow or ride-along with an experienced person – you'll learn a lot!

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Alabama Standards and Training

By Chris Westmoreland, Cullman, Alabama

In this day and age of electronics, cell phones, tablets and social media, I firmly believe anyone that is in an Animal Control capacity must rely strongly on their training, ethics and professionalism. There are so many dangerous factors for Animal Control Officers across not only our state, but also the country. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss a few of the sometimes unknown factors for ACO's.

There are Animal Control Officers across the country that are hired to perform a variety of duties. Some of these duties include (but not limited to):

1. Enforce state laws or city ordinances
2. Insure public safety and health
3. Pickup stray animals
4. Educate the public
5. Investigate complaints of animal abuse/neglect

These are just a few of the many duties an Animal Control Officer faces on a daily basis. Unfortunately, there are officers performing these duties without the proper training or equipment. Agencies have hired ACO's with little to no experience, placed them on the job with little to no training. Some agencies have the proper equipment, but the officer has not been shown the proper way to use the equipment. Each agency is different, some with very small budgets, and others with very large budgets. Some agencies have highly qualified officers with hundreds of hours of training to perform the duties in which they are asked, but other agencies are not so fortunate. Whether your agency has 10 Animal Control Officers or 1 parttime officer, the goal should be the same. That goal is to train, educate, and professionalize the officer, so that they can perform their duties to the best of their ability for your agency and the community in which they serve.

As a Mayor, Chairman, Sheriff or Chief of an agency, you want the best possible ACO's to serve your respective communities. You want those officers to be able to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities. You want your ACO's to be trained to conduct themselves with the highest level of professionalism, so they represent your agency and community with the utmost respect. You would also want those officers to have the necessary equipment to

perform those duties. If the ACO's are asked to perform these duties without the proper training and equipment, those officers can be placed in a very dangerous situation. As the leader of the agency, you would not want a member of the public or your ACO's to be placed in harm's way.

The Alabama Animal Control Officers Standards and Training Commission (ALACOST) wants to assist with helping officers across our state by providing training, certification and professionalism. We are proposing that all Animal Control Officers be required to attend mandatory training classes that will provide them with the necessary education to perform their duties to the best of their abilities. When ACO's complete their training, they will be issued a State of Alabama Animal Control Officers Certification. ALACOST will maintain all records and will offer continuing education classes as well, to keep ACO's up-to-date on the ever-changing laws and regulations.

In closing, ALACOST wants to ensure that each Animal Control Officer has the proper training, ethics and professionalism to best serve their Supervisor, Agency and Community, to perform their duties with the highest level of respect and safety.

Sgt. Chris Westmoreland, Cullman County Animal Control, Cullman, Alabama





Euthanasia by Injection Workshop Description

Euthanasia means a humane and stress-free end of life for animals in shelter care. The Illinois Animal Welfare Federation created a curriculum for the training of animal control and animal welfare workers in Euthanasia by Injection. This curriculum provides workers who must euthanize animals the proper training in a supportive and compassionate environment. The 12-hour workshop, conducted through lecture, discussion, video presentations, and hands-on demonstrations, teaches students about anesthetics and sedatives, anatomy, safe and effective restraint, injection techniques, equipment, worker safety, legal requirements, and verification of death. The instructor is a Certified Euthanasia Technician in the State of Illinois with years of experience.

To host an EBI workshop, the IAWF requires:

- **Location** – The hosting agency shall provide an animal control facility or animal shelter that euthanizes animals, with a conference or training room that could accommodate students at tables. An LCD projector, supplies and equipment used in euthanasia must be supplied. While animals to be euthanized in the lab portion of the class are not essential, it can be very helpful to have a number of dogs and cats for hands-on practice for novice technicians. It must be explicitly clear, however, that the animals selected for this portion of the class have been designated for euthanasia by the host agency for reasons related to policy and procedure of that organization and have not been selected only to supply this training.
- *For locations outside of Illinois, the IAWF requires the hosting agency provide the instructor with the legal requirements for the euthanasia of animals in that state at least 30 days in advance of the workshop.*
- **Registration** – Registration can be handled by the hosting agency or online through the IAWF, for an additional modest fee.
- **Workshop** – The workshop is scheduled for 10 am - 4 pm on the first day; and 8 am - 1 pm on the second. About 20-30 minutes is allowed for lunch if the hosting agency provides it. If the hosting group doesn't want to provide food, an hour for lunch will be provided in addition to periodic breaks. The first day is lecture and discussion with some demonstration. The second day is lecture, review, testing, and lab. The lab may be short or long - depending on the number of students, the number of people who want to participate, and the number of animals available.
- **Cost** - the cost is \$2,500 for the workshop (plus instructor's travel expenses, including all transportation and lodging costs). The IAWF has the ability to offer on-line registration. If that service is requested by the hosting agency, an additional processing fee will be determined. The workshop fee includes a workbook, materials, and upon passing the workshop exam, a certification of completion.

For information on scheduling an EBI training through the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation, contact training@iawf.net.

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Rabies in the United States

By Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.

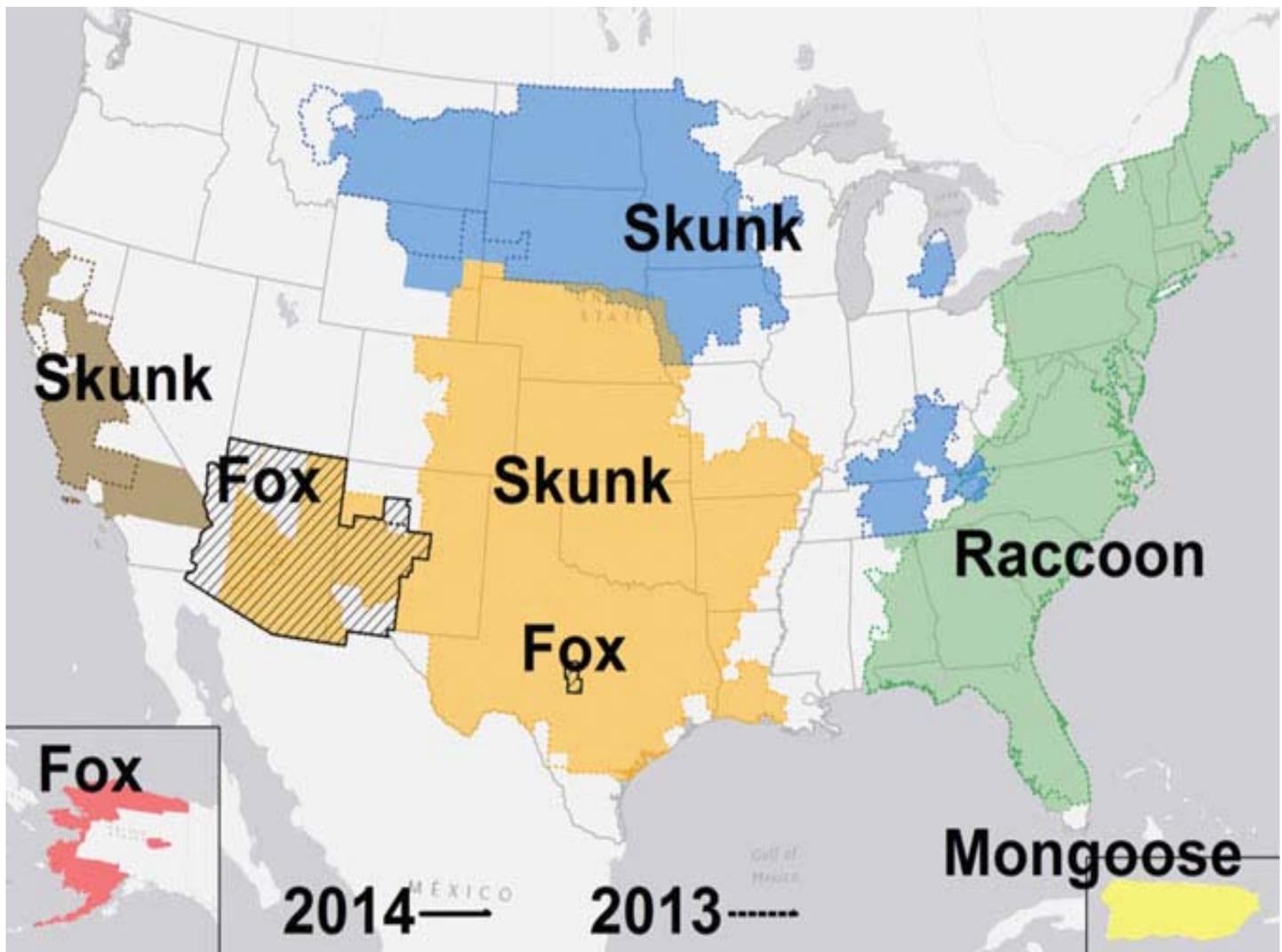
The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hyper salivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

In this century, the number of human deaths in the United States attributed to rabies has declined from 100 or more each year to an average of 2 or 3 each year. Two programs have been responsible for this decline. First, animal control and vaccination programs begun in the 1940's and oral rabies vaccination programs in the 2000's have eliminated domestic dogs as reservoirs of rabies in the United States. Second, effective human rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins have been developed.

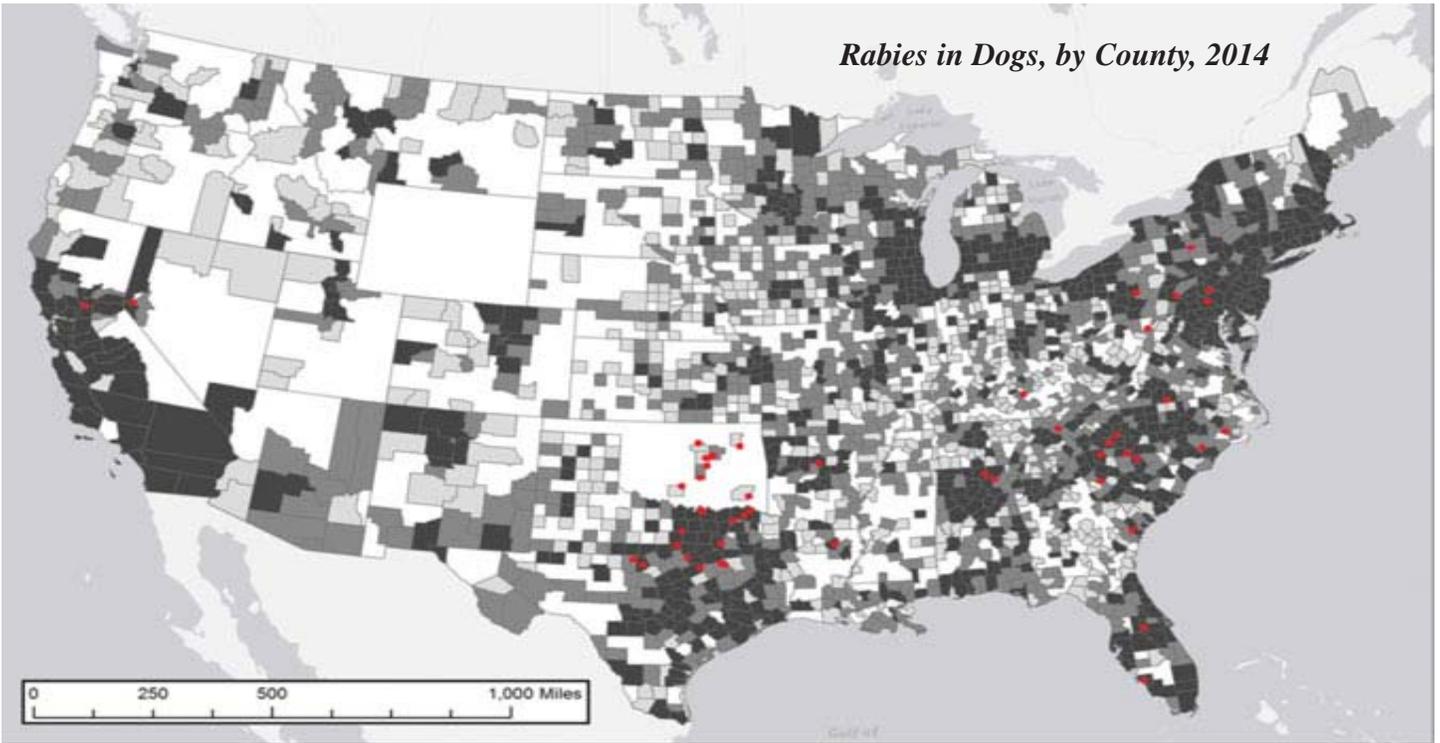
Human rabies cases in the United States are rare, with only 1 to 3 cases reported annually. Thirty-four cases of human rabies have been diagnosed in the United States since 2003, in which 10 cases were found to have contracted infection outside of the United States and its territories. The

Continued on Page 9

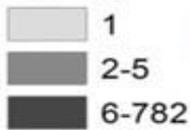
Distribution of major rabies virus variants among mesocarnivores in the United States and Puerto Rico from 2008 to 2014



Rabies in Dogs, by County, 2014

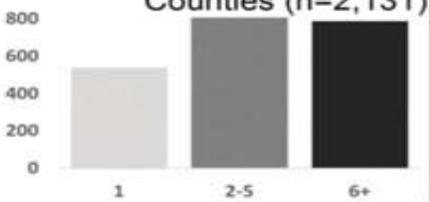


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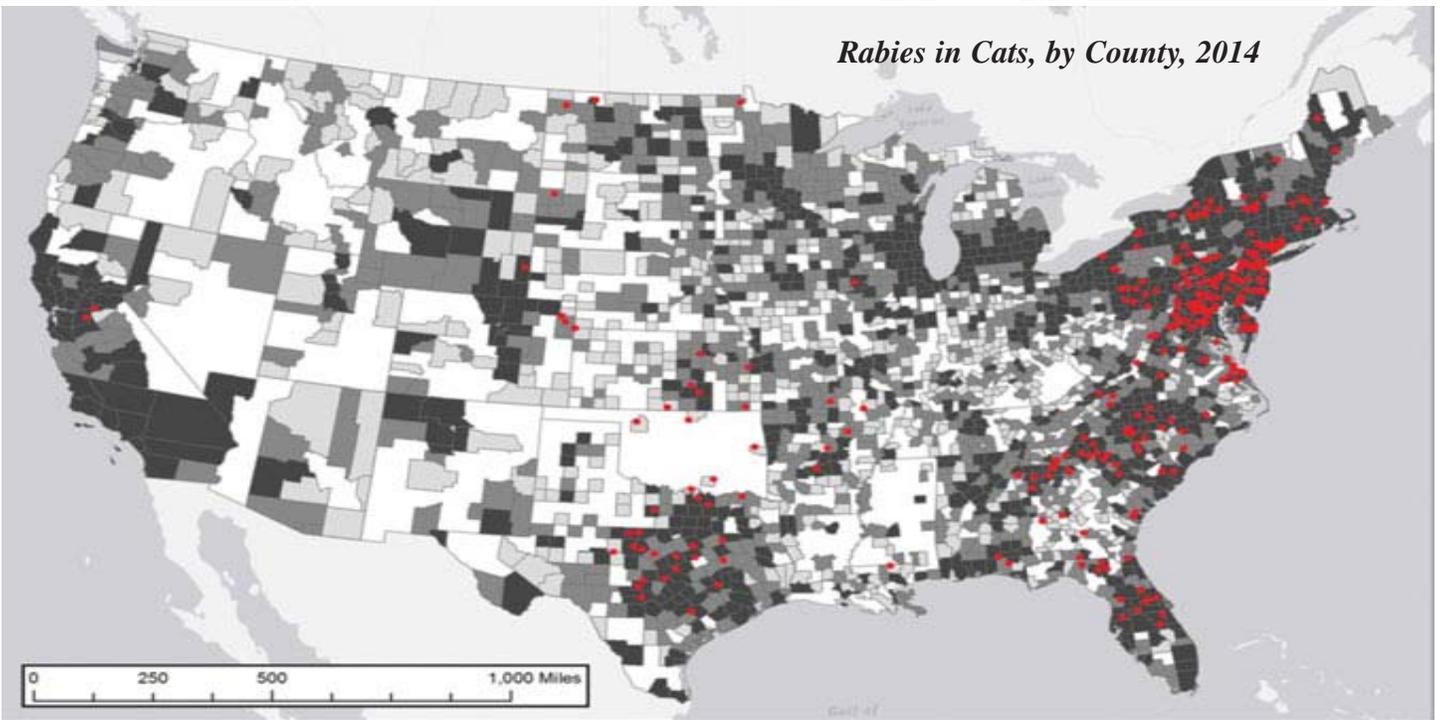


Rabid Dogs

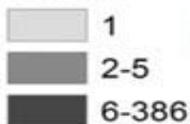
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Rabies in Cats, by County, 2014

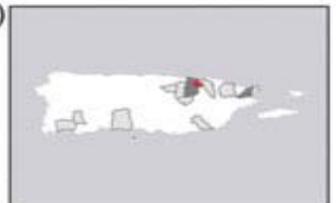
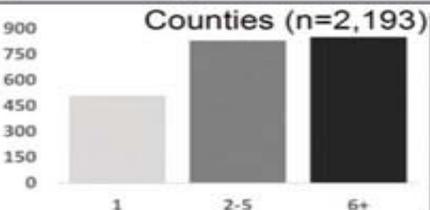


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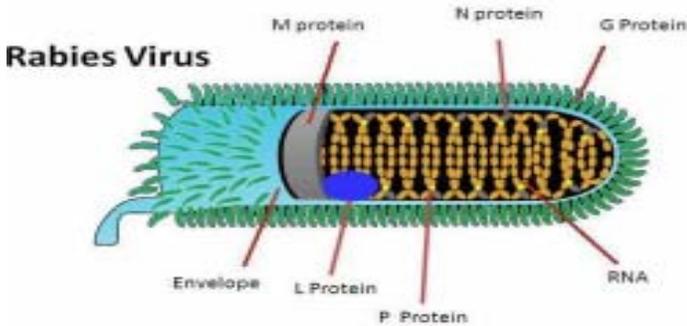


Rabid Cats

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number of human deaths in the United States attributed to rabies has been steadily declining since the 1970's due to animal control and vaccination programs, modern rabies biologics following exposure, and successful outreach campaigns. Rabies vaccination programs have eliminated domestic dogs as reservoirs of rabies in the United States, although we still see 80–100 dogs and >300 cats with rabies each year, usually infected by wildlife when these domesticated pets are not vaccinated against rabies. While the biggest rabies threat in the world (domestic dogs) has been controlled in the United States, interactions with other rabies reservoir species results in 30,000 – 60,000 Americans being vaccinated against rabies each year.



Over the last 100 years, rabies in the United States has changed dramatically. More than 90% of all animal cases reported annually to CDC now occur in wildlife; before 1960 the majority were in domestic animals. The principal rabies hosts today are wild carnivores and bats.

The number of rabies-related human deaths in the United States has declined from more than 100 annually at the turn of the century to one or two per year in the 1990's. Modern day prophylaxis has proven nearly 100% successful.

In the United States, human fatalities associated with rabies occur in people who fail to seek medical assistance, usually because they were unaware of their exposure.



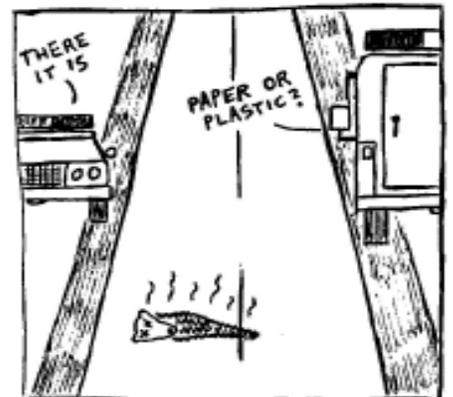
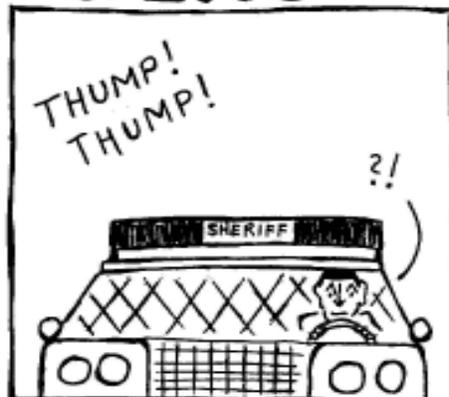
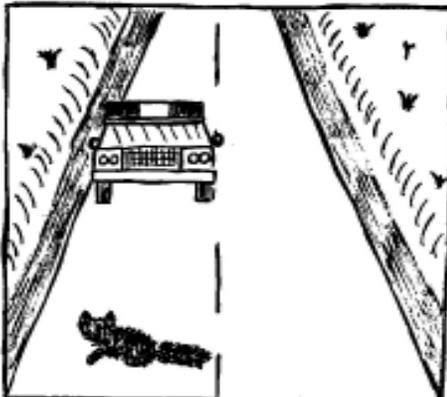
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BY GUY E. CARRIS | INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL MASON, MICHIGAN



**Cases of Rabies in Humans in the United States and Puerto Rico, 2003 Through July 2014,
by Circumstances of Exposure and Rabies Virus Variant**

Onset	Death	State	Age	Sex	Exposure History*	Rabies virus variant†
2/10/2003	3/10/2003	VA	25	M	Unknown	Raccoon, eastern US
5/28/2003	6/5/2003	PR	64	M	Bite-Puerto Rico	Dog/mongoose, Puerto Rico
8/23/2003	9/14/2003	CA	66	M	Bite	Bat, Ln
2/9/2004	2/15/2004	FL	41	M	Bite-Haiti	Dog, Haiti
4/27/2004	5/3/2004	AR	20	M	Bite (organ donor)	Bat, Tb
5/25/2004	5/31/2004	OK	53	M	Liver transplant	Bat, Tb
5/29/2004	6/9/2004	TX	50	F	Kidney transplant	Bat, Tb
6/2/2004	6/10/2004	TX	55	F	Arterial transplant	Bat, Tb
5/27/2004	6/21/2004	TX	18	M	Kidney transplant	Bat, Tb
10/12/2004	Survived	WI	15	F	Bite	Bat, unknown
10/19/2004	10/26/2004	CA	22	M	Unknown-El Salvador	Dog, El Salvador
9/27/2005	9/27/2005	MS	10	M	Contact	Bat, unknown
5/4/2006	5/12/2006	TX	16	M	Contact	Bat, Tb
9/30/2006	11/2/2006	IN	10	F	Bite	Bat, Ln
11/15/2006	12/14/2006	CA	11	M	Bite-Philippines	Dog, Philippines
9/19/2007	10/20/2007	MN	46	M	Bite	Bat, unknown
3/16/2008	3/18/2008	CA	16	M	Bite-Mexico	Fox, Tb-related
11/19/2008	11/30/2008	MO	55	M	Bite	Bat, Ln
2/25/2009	Survived	TX	17	F	Contact	Bat, unknown
10/5/2009	10/20/2009	IN	43	M	Unknown	Bat, Ps
10/23/2009	11/20/2009	VA	42	M	Contact-India	Dog, India
10/20/2009	11/11/2009	MI	55	M	Contact	Bat, Ln
8/2/2010	8/21/2010	LA	19	M	Bite-Mexico	Bat, Dr
12/24/2010	1/10/2011	WI	70	M	Unknown	Bat, Ps
4/30/2011	Survived	CA	8	F	Unknown	Unknown
6/30/2011	7/20/2011	NJ	73	F	Bite-Haiti	Dog, Haiti
8/14/2011	8/21/2011	NY	25	M	Contact-Afghanistan	Dog, Afghanistan
9/1/2011	8/21/2011	NC	20	M	Unknown	Raccoon, eastern US
9/1/2011	10/14/2011	MA	40	M	Contact-Brazil	Dog, Brazil
12/3/2011	12/19/2011	SC	46	F	Unknown	Tb
12/22/2011	1/23/2012	MA	63	M	Contact	My Sp
7/31/2012	7/6/2012	CA	34	M	Bite	Bat, Tb
5/16/2013	6/11/2013	TX	28	M	Unknown- Guatemala	Dog, Guatemala

**Data for exposure history are reported based on when plausible information was reported directly by the patient (if lucid or credible), or when a reliable account of an incident consistent with rabies virus exposure (e.g. dog bite) was reported by an independent witness (usually a family member). Exposure histories are categorized as: Bite, contact (e.g. awaking to find bat on exposed skin, etc.), but no known bite was acknowledged, or unknown (i.e. no known contact with an animal was elicited during case investigation)*

*†Variants of the rabies virus associated with terrestrial animals in the United States and Puerto Rico are identified with the names of the reservoir animal (e.g. dog or raccoon), followed by the name of the most definitive geographic entity (usually the country) from which the variant has been identified. Variants of the rabies virus associated with bats are identified with the names of the species of bats in which they have been found to be circulating. Because information regarding the location of the exposure and the identity of the exposing animal is almost always retrospective and much information is frequently unavailable, the location of the exposure and the identity of the animal responsible for the infection are often limited to deduction. Dr = *Desmodus rotundus*, Ln = *Lasiurus noctivagans*, My Sp = *Myotis species*, Ps = *Perimyotis subflavus*, Tb= *Tadarida brasiliensis**

ACTS Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.aco-acts.com or call 913-515-0080

Animal Control Officer Training - Hosted by the County Animal Controls of Illinois

November 2-3, 2016 - Effingham, Illinois

Schedule of Training: Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Officer Safety and Self-Defense

Animal Control Officer Specialized Training Course - Hosted by the North Kansas City Police Dept.

November 7-9, 2016 - North Kansas City, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Multiculturalism in Animal Control; Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Interview and Investigation Techniques; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by Bullhead City Animal Welfare

November 14-18, 2016 - Bullhead City, Arizona

Schedule of Training: Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Pepper Spray Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Understanding the ADA and Service Animals for ACO's

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by McCracken County Government

November 16-17, 2016 - Paducah, Kentucky

Schedule of Training: Chemical Immobilization Certification; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Field Training Officer Certification for A/C Professionals - Hosted by Westminster Animal Management

November 21-22, 2016 - Westminster, Colorado

Schedule of Training: Field Training Officer Certification

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by Hutchinson Animal Services

December 5-9, 2016 - Hutchinson, Kansas

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by the Los Alamos Police Department

December 12-14, 2016 - Los Alamos, New Mexico

Schedule of Training: Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Evidence Law and Collection; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by Salem Animal Control

December 15, 2016 - Salem, Illinois

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

ACTS Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.aco-acts.com or call 913-515-0080

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by White County Public Safety January 9-12, 2017 - Helen, Georgia

Schedule of Training: Understanding the "Link" in Animal Abuse; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints; Interview and Investigation Techniques; Pepper Spray Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by the Grass Valley Police Department January 23-27, 2017 - Grass Valley, California

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by the Palm Springs Police Department February 13-17, 2017 - Palm Springs, California

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by Hall County Animal Services March 20-24, 2017 - Gainesville, Georgia

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Hosting ACTS Training

Want to host an ACTS training program? ACTS would be honored to offer training for your agency and area agencies. We can tailor the training to your local needs. If you haven't already done so, review our training catalog for a list of training topics. Visit www.aco-acts.com and click on the "training" tab.

You can "build" a program based upon what you feel your group would most benefit from. Pick and choose the topics and the number of days for training. We are flexible in our offerings. As the hosting agency, your agency would receive 2 complimentary registrations for every 10 paid. ACTS can also promote the training to area agencies and provide registration forms. All we require from the hosting agency is a meeting room that has an LCD projector and a screen, along with speakers for sound. The meeting room should accommodate at least 20 students. There is no cost to the agency to host training, unless you choose to register your own employees for the training, outside of any comps that you might receive. ACTS welcomes the opportunity to assist with your training needs. Let us know how we can help.