

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Owens, Governor
Jane E. Norton, Executive Director

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S.
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530
Phone (303) 692-2000
TDD Line (303) 691-7700
Located in Glendale, Colorado

Laboratory and Radiation Services Division
8100 Lowry Blvd.
Denver, Colorado 80230-6928
(303) 692-3090

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>



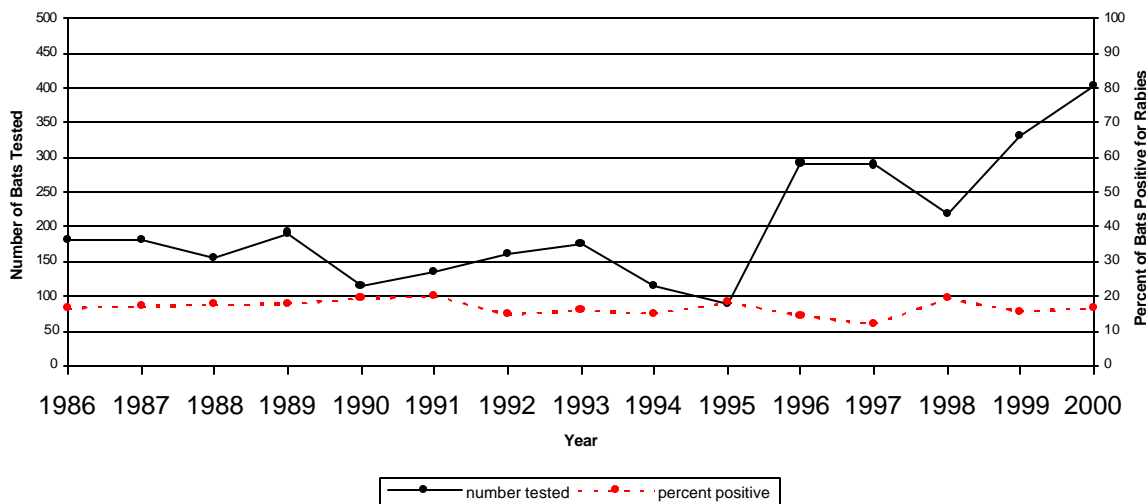
Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

MEMORANDUM

To: Files
From: Aaron Kipp, Intern; John Pape, Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Epidemiology
Date: July 26, 2001
RE: 2000 Rabies Summary

Rabies specimen submission increased compared to last year with record numbers of specimens (n=806), bats (n=404) and positive bats (n=67) (Tables I and II). Positive bats accounted for 16.6% of the bats submitted which is a slight increase from 1999. Through 1995, the number of bats submitted remained fairly constant, but, beginning in 1996, submissions increased dramatically (Figure 1). This is due to educational efforts to increase public awareness of the potential rabies risk associated with bats. In spite of the increased number of bats for tested, the percentage of rabid bats has remained steady, ranging from 11.8% to 20% during the 15 years with an average of 16.6%. Submissions should be limited to bats with possible human or pet exposures.

Figure 1
Colorado Bat Rabies, 1986-2000



Dogs and cats accounted for 268 (33%) of specimens tested, followed by 42 (5%) skunks and 36 (4%) raccoons (Table II). The number of raccoons tested decreased after the end of an outbreak of canine distemper among raccoons in the Denver area. The only rabies positive specimens were bats.

The number of persons receiving post-exposure prophylaxis decreased slightly this year to 72 (Table III). This underestimates the actual number of treatments administered. Forty-seven (65%) received treatment due to bat exposures; 22 tested positive and 25 were not tested. Fifteen (21%) were given treatment due to dog and cat bites (9 and 6 respectively). The biting animal was not available for testing in 67% of the incidents resulting in treatment being administered.

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT
DISEASE CONTROL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY DIVISION
RABIES REPORT, 2000

TABLE I - FLUORESCENT RABIES ANTIBODY (FRA) EXAMINTIONS

YEAR	EXAMS	CONFIRMED POSITIVE					TOTAL POSITIVES	% POSITIVES
		RABIES BY SPECIES						
		Dogs	Cats	Skunks	Bats	Others		
2000	806	0	0	0	67	0	67	8.3
1999	722	0	0	0	51	0	51	7.1
1998	561	0	0	0	42	0	42	7.5
1997	699	0	0	0	34	0	34	4.9
1996	762	0	0	0	42	1*	43	5.6

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5 YEAR

TOTAL	3550	0	0	0	236	1	237	6.7
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Annual

Average	710	0	0	0	47	<1	47	6.6
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*fox--western *Myotis* bat variant

TABLE II - EXAMS AND POSITIVE TESTS BY SPECIES

SPECIES	2000			1999			
	EXAMS	PERCENT		EXAMS	PERCENT		
		POSITIVE	POSITIVE		POSITIVE	POSITIVE	
Dogs	137	0	0	Dogs	130	0	0
Cats	131	0	0	Cats	133	0	0
Skunks	42	0	0	Skunks	26	0	0
Bats	404	67	16.6	Bats	330	51	15.5
Raccoons	36	0	0	Raccoons	60	0	0
Foxes	12	0	0	Foxes	4	0	0
Ferrets	2	0	0	Ferrets	4	0	0
Livestock	17	0	0	Livestock	15	0	0
Other domestic	1	0	0	Other domestic	1	0	0
Other wild	22	0	0	Other wild	19	0	0
Tested out of State	2	0	0				
TOTAL	806	67	8.3	TOTAL	722	51	7.1

TABLE III REPORTED POST-EXPOSURE RABIES PROPHYLAXIS BY EXPOSURE (N=72)

IN-STATE	WILD						
	DOG	CAT	BAT	SKUNK	RACCOON	CARNIVORE	OTHER
FRA+	-	-	22	-	-	-	-
FRA-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
NOT TESTED	2	2	25	4	-	-	3#
OUT OF STATE							
FRA+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FRA-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NOT TESTED	5	4	-	2	-	1*	-
TOTAL	9	6	47	6	0	1	3

#1 monkey 2 unknown

*Hvena

