



# 2016 Iowa Rabies Summary

## ANIMAL RABIES IN IOWA:

In 2016, 19 cases of animal rabies were reported in Iowa. Rabies was identified most frequently in wildlife species including 12 bats and 1 skunk. Three cases were diagnosed in dogs. A cat, cow, and horse were also diagnosed.

**Table 1: Positive Rabies Cases 2006-2016**

Species	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Bat	28	13	11	11	10	12	17	6	10	7	12	<b>137</b>
Skunk	13	5	7	13	13	7	9	4	2	1	1	<b>75</b>
Cat	7	7	9	3	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	<b>34</b>
Cow	4	0	1	5	1	3	4	2	2	0	1	<b>23</b>
Dog	2	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	<b>17</b>
Horse	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
Fox	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Squirrel	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
Badger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

During 2016, 1386 animals in Iowa were tested for rabies and 19 were confirmed positive (1.4%). The percent positive varies greatly by species, see the Table 2 below. It is important to note that this data is greatly influenced by the number of animals tested. Many animals are tested because they have contact with humans or domestic animals and they exhibit unusual behavior or clinical signs making them more likely to be infected with the rabies virus. For these reasons, the percentages should not be considered representative of the true distribution of disease within the animal population in Iowa.

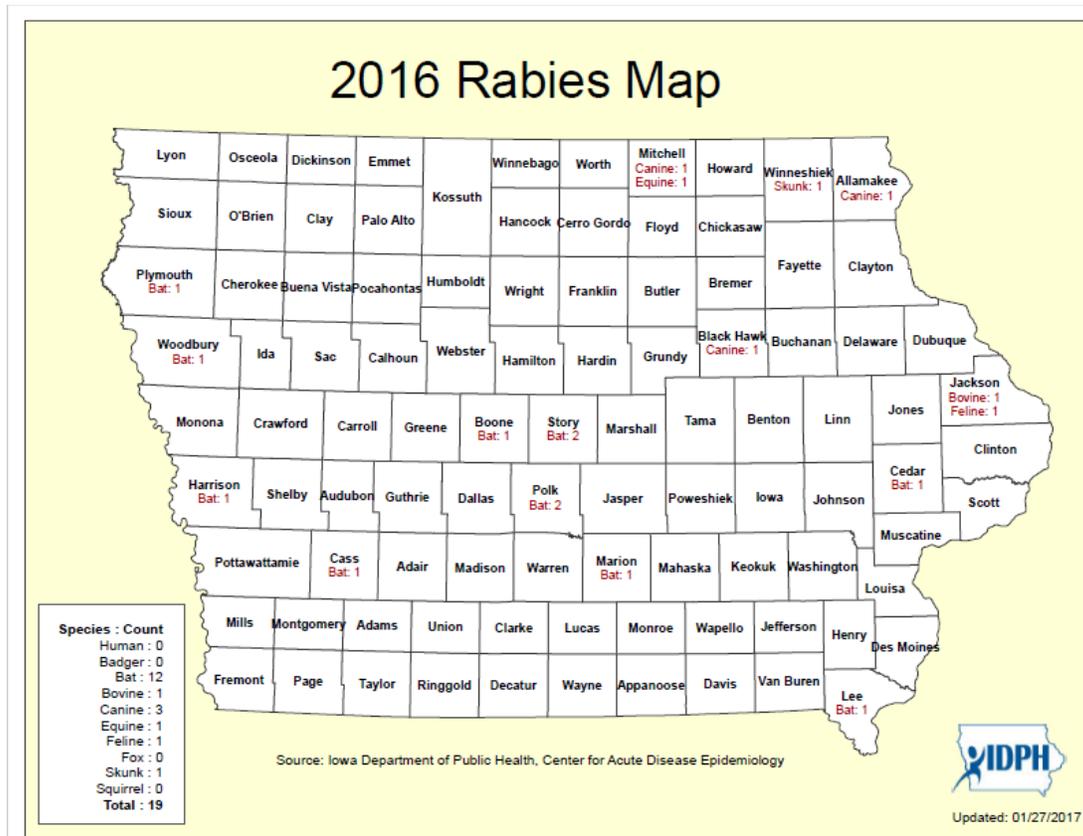
**Table 2: Percent Positive by Species in 2016**

Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
Skunk	1	10	10%
Bat	12	503	2.4%
Dog	3	283	1.1%
Cat	1	365	0.3%

In Iowa, the most common bat species submitted for testing are the Big Brown bat and Little Brown bat; however other bat species are occasionally tested.

**Table 3: Bat Species Tested and Positive for Rabies Infection**

Species	Positive	Total Tested
<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i> (Big Brown bat)	12	489
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i> (Little Brown Bat)	0	3
<i>Rousettus aegyptiacus</i>	0	4
Unknown	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>503</b>



There are two laboratories that test animals for rabies in Iowa:

- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Iowa animals are also periodically tested in out-of-state laboratories

### HUMAN RABIES IN IOWA:

Iowa's most recent human rabies case occurred in 2002, and was caused by the bat strain. Prior to that, the last reported case occurred in 1951.

While the exact number of people who receive rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) each year in the United States is unknown, it is estimated to be about 40,000 people. Based upon Iowa's population, that would equate to approximately 390 Iowan's receiving PEP each year.