



2017 Iowa Rabies Summary

ANIMAL RABIES IN IOWA:

In 2017, 10 cases of animal rabies were reported in Iowa. Rabies was identified most frequently in wildlife species including 6 bats and 2 skunks. Two cases were also diagnosed in cats.

Table 1: Positive Rabies Cases 2007-2017

Species	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Bat	13	11	11	10	12	17	6	10	7	12	6	115
Skunk	5	7	13	13	7	9	4	2	1	1	2	64
Cat	7	9	3	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2	29
Cow	0	1	5	1	3	4	2	2	0	1	0	19
Dog	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	15
Horse	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Fox	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Squirrel	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Badger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	31	29	35	27	25	31	12	15	12	19	10	246

During 2017, 1360 animals in Iowa were tested for rabies and 10 were confirmed positive (0.74%). 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 2017

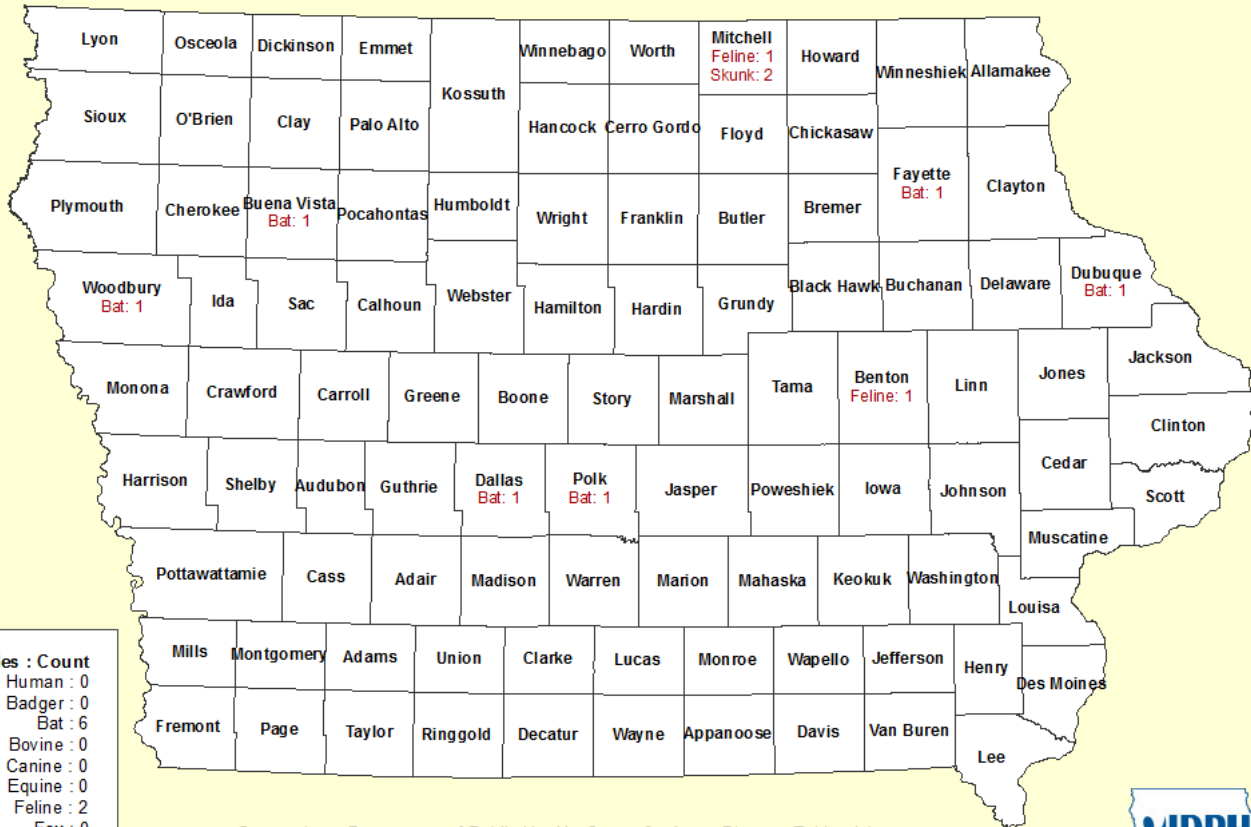
Species	Positive	Total Tested	% Positive
Skunk	2	11	18.2%
Bat	6	523	1.1%
Cat	2	345	0.6%

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)	6	491
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i> (Little Brown Bat)	0	13
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	0	3
<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	0	2
<i>Nycticeius humeralis</i>	0	1
Unknown	0	13
Total	6	523

2017 Rabies Map



Species	Count
Human	0
Badger	0
Bat	6
Bovine	0
Canine	0
Equine	0
Feline	2
Fox	0
Skunk	2
Squirrel	0
Total	10

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology



Updated: 02/14/2018

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

- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa (tested 758 Iowa animals in 2017)
- Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (tested 602 Iowa animals in 2017)

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.