

ZOONOSIS CONTROL

HEALTH SERVICE REGION 11

2009

2009 RABIES SUMMARY FOR HSR 11

A total of 19 laboratory confirmed cases of animal rabies were reported from four counties in Health Service Region 11 (HSR 11) during 2009 (Figure 1). This represents a 12 percent increase from the 17 cases reported in 2008 (Table 1). The counties reporting cases in 2009 (with the number of cases in parentheses) were: Bee (1), Hidalgo (4), Nueces (8), and Webb (6). All of these cases occurred in bats (Table 2), including 18 *Tadarida brasiliensis* (Mexican free-tailed bats), and 1 *Lasiurus intermedius* (northern yellow bat).

COUNTY	2008	2009	% CHANGE
BEE	0	1	-
HIDALGO	2	4	100
NUECES	6	8	33
STARR	1	0	-
WEBB	7	6	-14
WILLACY	1	0	-
TOTAL	17	19	12

Table 1: Percent Change in Rabies Cases by County, 2008 to 2009, HSR 11.

COUNTY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
BEE												Bat-1	1
HIDALGO						Bat-2					Bat-1	Bat-1	4
NUECES	Bat-1					Bat-1		Bat-1		Bat-2	Bat-2	Bat-1	8
WEBB		Bat-1	Bat-1	Bat-1	Bat-1					Bat-1	Bat-1		6
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	3	0	1	0	3	4	3	19

Table 2: Cases by County and by Month, 2009, HSR 11.

In HSR 11, there were no reports of human contact with the rabid animals reported in 2009. This is a decrease from 2008, when three people received rabies post-exposure prophylaxis due to contact with a rabid steer from Starr County. Two domestic cats were exposed to rabid bats in HSR 11 in 2009, and three domestic dogs had access to an area where a rabid bat was found and were also treated as potentially exposed. This is a total of 5 animals exposed to rabid bats in HSR 11 in 2009, the same number that was reported in 2008.

The oral rabies vaccination program (ORVP) for coyotes continued in South Texas during January 2010, with approximately 500,000 vaccine-containing baits distributed in a 40-mile wide strip along the Rio Grande from Maverick County in the west to the Gulf of Mexico in the east. Baits were distributed from airplanes, helicopters and vehicles in an expanded program to ensure coyote habitat in the outskirts of cities and towns received baits. We would like to thank all of the Animal Control Officers and Health Departments who participated in the handbaiting effort this year. Over 15,100 baits were distributed by hand in South Texas with your assistance!

Skunk rabies is a re-emerging threat for the northern counties in HSR 11. During 2009, cases were reported in Goliad (adjacent to Bee and Refugio) and La Salle (adjacent to Duval, McMullen and Webb) counties in HSR 8. Skunks are the most commonly reported rabid terrestrial animal in Texas, but the skunk strain of rabies has not been reported in HSR 11 counties since 1989. Animal Control Agencies and Health Departments should remain alert for skunks exhibiting unusual behavior and submit them for rabies testing.

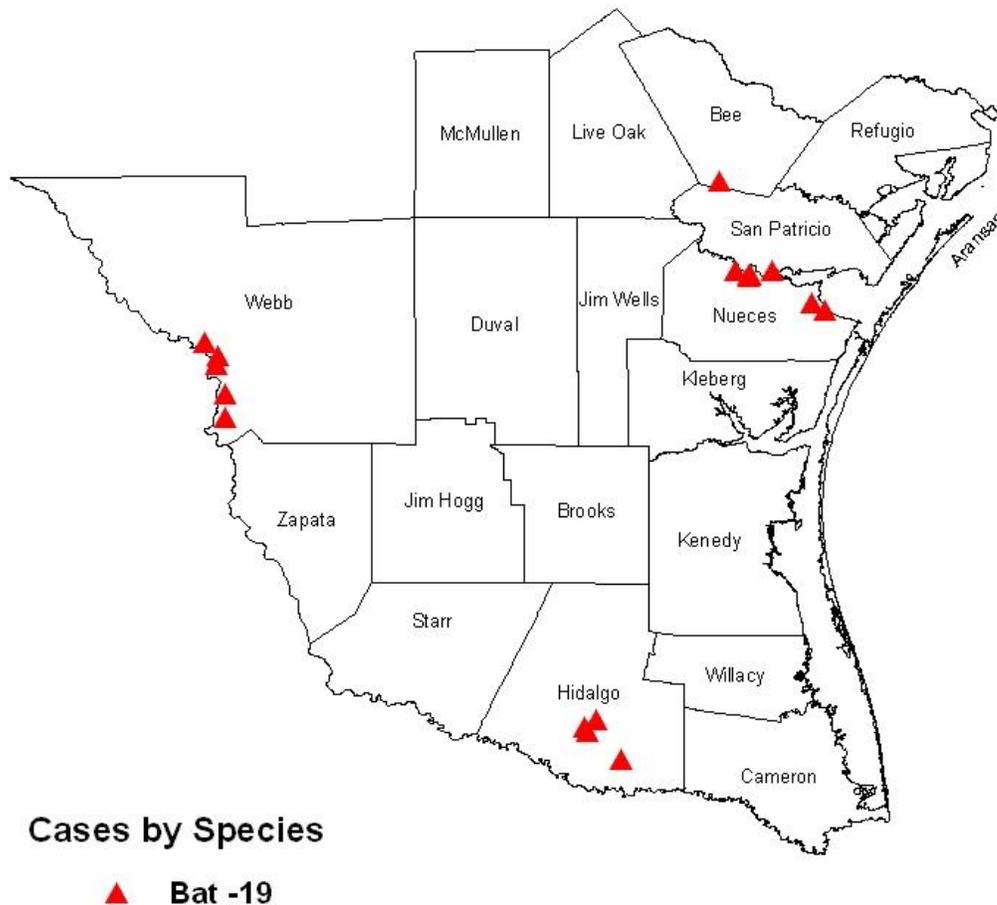
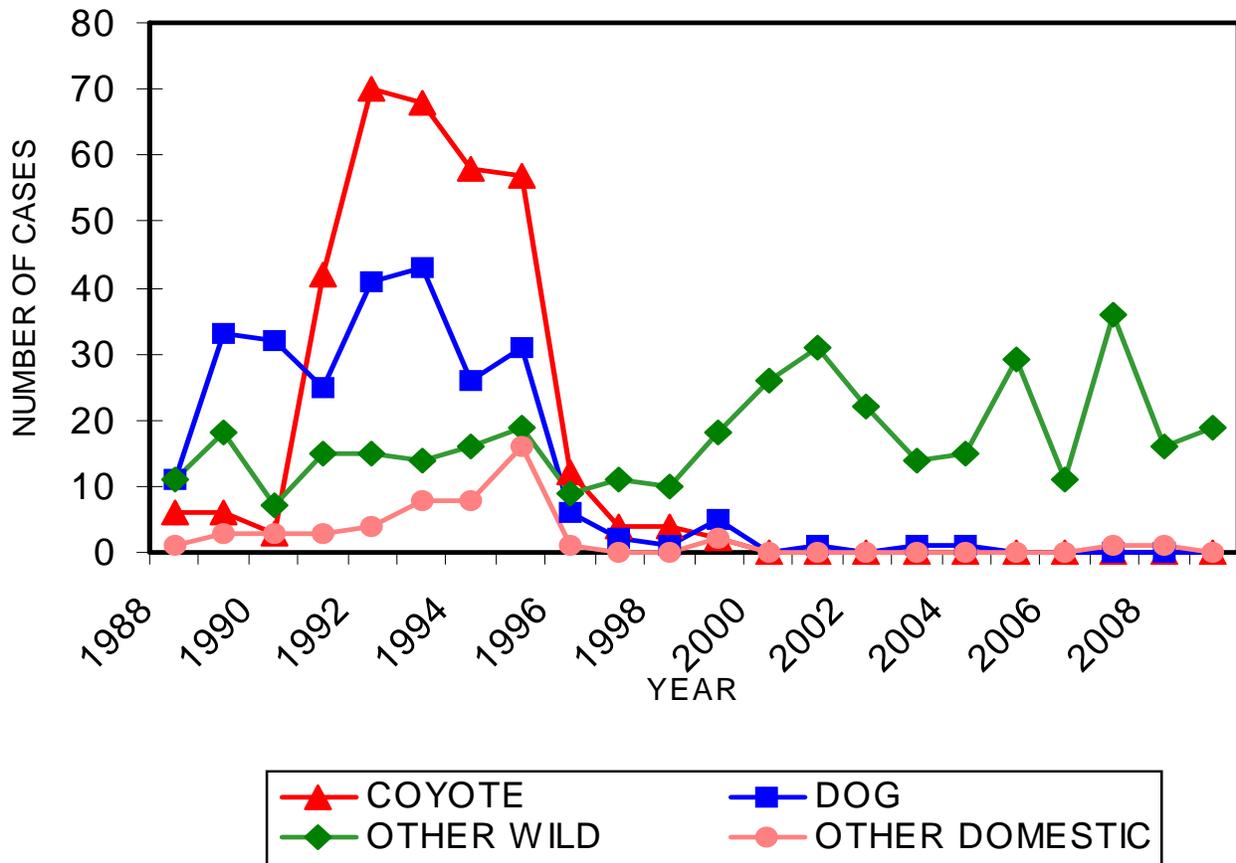


Figure 1: Confirmed Cases of Rabies in HSR 11 during 2009

Animal Rabies Cases by Species Health Service Region 11: 1988 - 2009



SPECIES	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	TOTAL
Coyote	6	6	3	42	70	68	58	57	12	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332
Dog	11	33	32	25	41	43	26	31	6	2	1	5	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	259
Skunk	7	11	6	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Bat	4	5	1	6	4	9	10	9	8	11	10	17	26	31	22	14	15	29	11	36	16	19	313
Cat	1	1	3	1	1	7	2	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	25
Raccoon	0	2	0	1	1	4	5	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Bovine	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	18
Horse	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Bobcat	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Goat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	29	60	45	85	130	133	108	123	28	17	15	27	26	32	22	15	16	29	11	37	17	19	1024

NOTE: In 1993, Public Health Region 8 was reconfigured to create Region 11. Calhoun, Dewitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca and Victoria counties were assigned to the new Region 8.