



Texas Department of State Health Services

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<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region7/default.shtm>

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There were **258 laboratory-confirmed animal rabies cases** reported from the 30-county area of Health Service Region 7 (HSR7) during 2010. Region 7 staff investigated an additional **101 non-negative (decomposed, destroyed, and unsatisfactory) rabies test results** that required investigation.

Rabies was confirmed in HSR7 in 167 bats, 65 skunks, 11 cats, 5 raccoons, 5 foxes, 2 dogs, 1 donkey, 1 goat, and 1 bobcat.

Counties with laboratory-confirmed rabies cases include: Bastrop (5), Bell (6), Brazos (15), Burleson (1), Burnet (5), Caldwell (3), Coryell (5), Fayette (3), Freestone (1), Hays (9), Hill (2), Lampasas (3), Lee (4), Leon (1), Llano (6), McLennan (5), Milam (2), Mills (7), Robertson (6), San Saba (8), Travis (69), Washington (12), and Williamson (80).

Williamson and Travis Counties had the most confirmed rabies cases during this time period. Llano, Mills, and San Saba counties continued to report more rabies cases than usual.

There were 11 rabid cats confirmed in 2010 in Central Texas. All cases occurred in "never vaccinated" animals. The 2010 feline rabies cat case count was more than double the cases documented in either 2008 or 2009. In some of the cat rabies incidents, people were bitten. Were it not for the rabies quarantine and testing efforts of animal control agencies and veterinary practice, the exposed individuals may have died from rabies. Below is a sampling of some of the feline rabies cases in Central Texas during 2010:

1. Two rabid "barn kittens" (littermates at the same Brazos County property) developed signs of rabies on the same day. The owner presented these kittens to a veterinary practice for treatment of "flea bath toxicity". Definitive signs of rabies were recognized after the kittens failed to respond to appropriate therapy.
2. A stray cat living on a public school campus in Williamson County bit a teacher. She took the cat to her local animal shelter for rabies observation. The cat died the next morning after it displayed bizarre neurological signs.

3. Another rabid cat was taken in as a healthy stray kitten by a veterinary clinic in Travis County. Within two days of the kitten's adoption, it developed signs of "furious" rabies. Numerous people (veterinary clinic personnel and the kitten's owners) received the complete postexposure rabies vaccination series for their exposure to this cat.

4. An unowned cat injured an unsupervised two-year-old child in a residential front yard within a municipality in Bell County. Rabies testing confirmed the cat to be rabid, and the child was treated with the rabies vaccination series in a timely manner.

The rabies cases are recorded in the "Positive Animal Rabies Cases, Three-Year Comparison, 2008 – 2010" table and depicted on the map "Health Service Region 7, Animal Rabies Cases by County, January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010".

Most of the rabid domestic animals confirmed in Central Texas during 2010 died of the South Central skunk rabies strain; however, one cat each in Williamson and Travis counties died of a rabies virus strain associated with Mexican Free-tail bats.

Note:

1. It remains important for veterinarians, animal control officers, Local Rabies Control Authorities, educators, health care providers, community leaders and the media to promote animal bite avoidance, animal bite reporting, domestic animal rabies vaccinations, and rabies quarantine and testing of potentially rabid animals.

If biting animals can be quarantined or tested, in accordance with the Texas Rabies Control Act, postexposure rabies vaccinations may be avoidable.

2. The rabies data presented in this email are obtained through a passive reporting system. The data are based solely on the results of animals submitted for rabies testing. There are many more animals (particularly wildlife) that die of rabies but are never submitted for rabies testing. Rabies is endemic in Central Texas, and ALL counties have rabies risk.

3. To learn more about animal rabies cases statewide, visit the web site <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies> .

4. Please promote animal rabies vaccinations in your communities. Remind the public that their pets must be vaccinated by 16 weeks of age, followed by a vaccination within the next 12 months, and then every 1 or 3 years thereafter, according to veterinary recommendations and local rabies law. Animals may become exposed to rabies in urban, suburban, and rural settings. Pets may be exposed in their yard or inside a residence. We have investigated rabid bat incidents where pets were exposed to bats inside multi-story apartment buildings. Horses and livestock may encounter rabid animals in their pens, stalls, and pastures.

Region 7 Zoonosis Control staff appreciates the dedicated and conscientious veterinarians, animal control officers, animal shelter workers, laboratory workers, and the public for their assistance in completing these rabies case investigations and in reducing the spread of rabies to people and animals.

E-mail Address Update:

If you know of others in your agency or community who would benefit from knowing about animal rabies events in Central Texas, please have them share their contact information and E-mail address with Kelly Andrews at 254/ 778-6744, ext. 6784 or kelly.andrews@dshs.state.tx.us.

Region 7 Zoonosis Control Program personnel:

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DEPT. OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES, HEALTH SERVICE REGION 7 (CENTRAL TEXAS)



POSITIVE ANIMAL RABIES CASES, THREE YEAR COMPARISON 2008, 2009, 2010

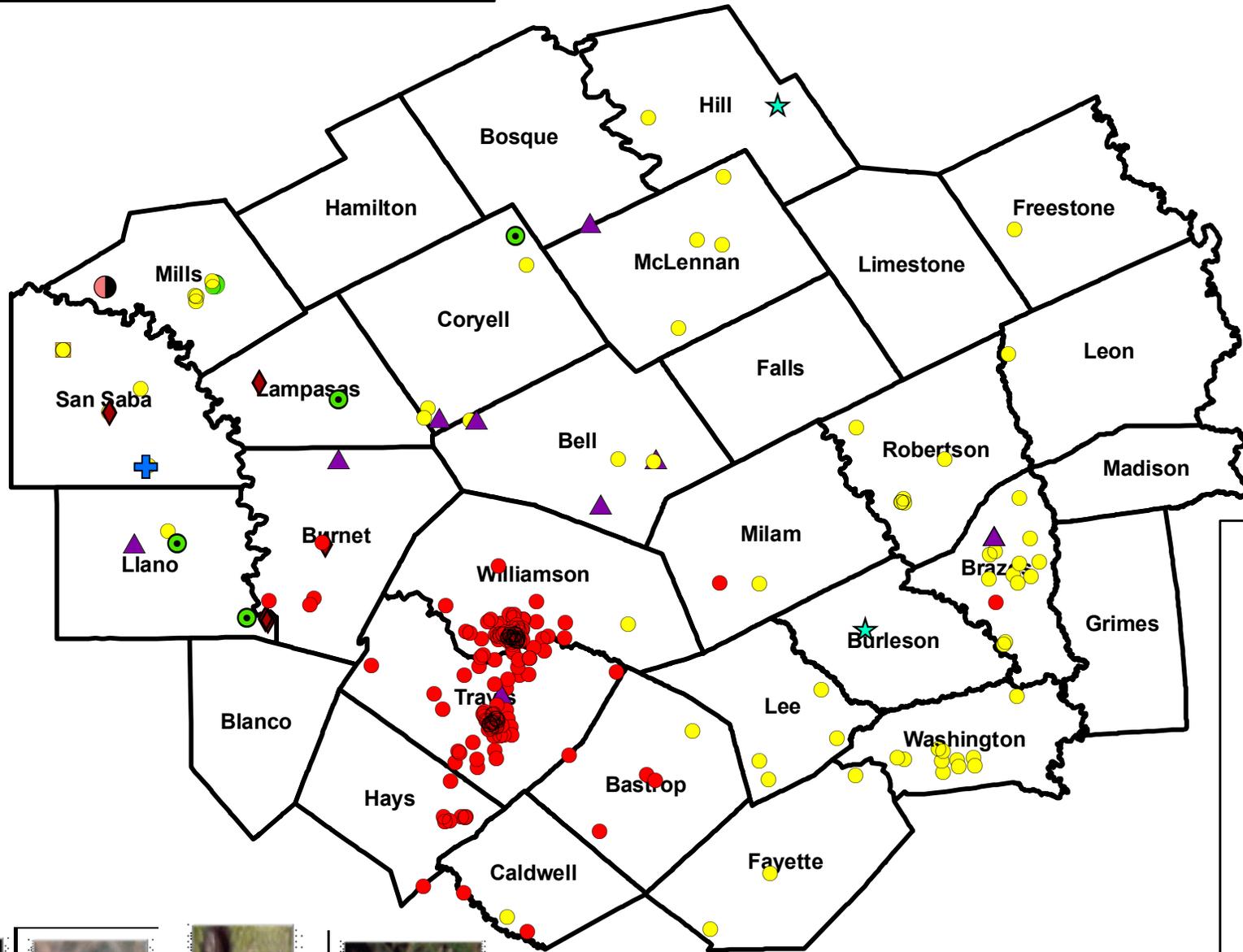
YEAR 2008							Year 2009							Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010							
County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species	County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species	County	Bat	Cat	Dog	Skunk	*Other	All Species	
BASTROP	4			2		6	BASTROP	7					7	BASTROP	4				1		5
BELL	3			5		8	BELL				5	1	6	BELL		3			3		6
BLANCO					2	2	BLANCO	3					3	BLANCO							0
BOSQUE				2		2	BOSQUE				1		1	BOSQUE							0
BRAZOS	2			31		33	BRAZOS	4	1		20		25	BRAZOS	1	2			12		15
BURLESON				10		10	BURLESON			1	3		4	BURLESON				1			1
BURNET	10	1	1	6	8	26	BURNET	9	1		1	5	16	BURNET	4					1	5
CALDWELL	4			10		14	CALDWELL	2					2	CALDWELL	2				1		3
CORYELL				2	1	3	CORYELL	1	1		3	1	6	CORYELL		1			3	1	5
FALLS		1				1	FALLS					1	1	FALLS							0
FAYETTE				1	1	2	FAYETTE				3		3	FAYETTE					3		3
FREESTONE				2		2	FREESTONE						0	FREESTONE					1		1
GRIMES				2		2	GRIMES						0	GRIMES							0
HAMILTON			1	1	3	5	HAMILTON				1	1	2	HAMILTON							0
HAYS	3					3	HAYS	2					2	HAYS	9						9
HILL				4		4	HILL				2		2	HILL				1	1		2
LAMPASAS						0	LAMPASAS					1	1	LAMPASAS		1				2	3
LEE				6		6	LEE				1		1	LEE					4		4
LEON				3		3	LEON				1	1	2	LEON					1		1
LIMESTONE				3		3	LIMESTONE		1		4	1	6	LIMESTONE							0
LLANO	4					4	LLANO	1			1		2	LLANO		1			1	4	6
MADISON				3		3	MADISON						0	MADISON							0
MCLENNAN	1	1		3		5	MCLENNAN			1	1		2	MCLENNAN		1			4		5
MILAM					1	1	MILAM					1	1	MILAM	1				1		2
MILLS						0	MILLS						0	MILLS					5	2	7
ROBERTSON				2		2	ROBERTSON				5		5	ROBERTSON					6		6
SAN SABA		1				1	SAN SABA					2	2	SAN SABA					5	3	8
TRAVIS	194			3		197	TRAVIS	102			1		103	TRAVIS	68	1					69
WASHINGTON				3	1	4	WASHINGTON	1			2		3	WASHINGTON					12		12
WILLIAMSON	46			7		53	WILLIAMSON	24			2		26	WILLIAMSON	78	1			1		80
Totals	271	4	2	111	17	405	Totals	156	4	2	57	15	234	Totals	167	11	2	65	13	258	

*Others: Blanco - raccoon, coyote; Burnet - 4 raccoons, 4 foxes; Coryell - raccoon; Fayette - goat; Hamilton - 2 foxes, raccoon; Milam - cow; Washington - cow

*Others: Bell - cow; Burnet - 4 raccoons, 1 bobcat; Coryell - raccoon; Falls - fox; Hamilton - coyote; Lampasas - raccoon; Leon - horse; Limestone - fox; Milam - raccoon; San Saba - cow; raccoon

*Others: Burnet - fox; Coryell - raccoon; Lampasas - 1 raccoon, 1 fox; Llano - 2 raccoons, 2 foxes; Mills - 1 goat, 1 raccoon; San Saba - 1 bobcat, 1 donkey, 1 fox

**Health Service Region 7
Animal Rabies Cases by County
January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010**



Animal

- BAT (167)
- BOBCAT (1)
- ▲ CAT (11)
- ★ DOG (2)
- + DONKEY (1)
- ◆ FOX (5)
- GOAT (1)
- RACCOON (5)
- SKUNK (65)

Total = 258

