

Zoonosis Control Newsletter

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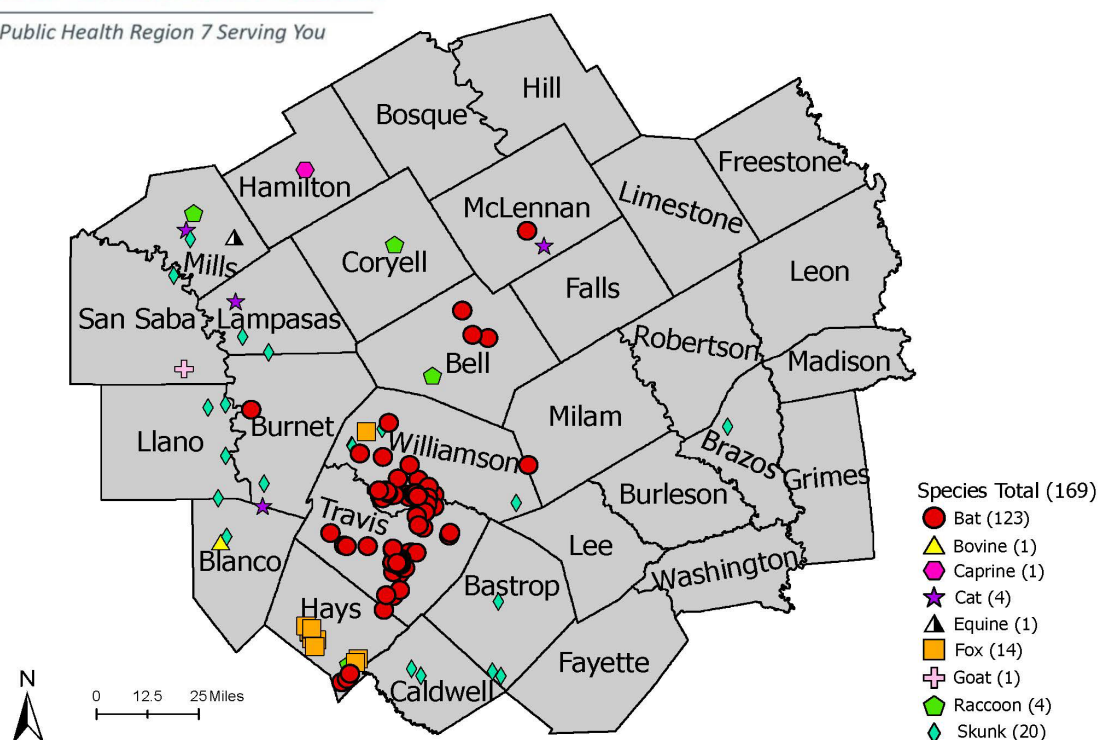
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Summary of Animal Rabies Cases

Between January 01, 2025, and December 31, 2025, there were **169** laboratory-confirmed rabies positive animals investigated by Public Health Region 7 Zoonosis Control Program. Public Health Region 7 also conducted investigations into **88** non-negative animals whose rabies tests were reported as either “decomposed” or “destroyed.”

DSHS Central Texas

Public Health Region 7 Serving You



Positive Animal Rabies Cases
January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Source: DSHS PHR7 Zoonosis Control
January 2026

[*Please note the map displays cases based on longitude and latitude coordinates. Because some counties' cases occurred near each other, some individual map symbols may not be distinguishable.]

ORVP

Annual Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) campaigns since 1995 have eliminated both the domestic dog-coyote (DDC) and Texas fox (TF) rabies variants from Texas. The current goal of the ORVP is to prevent the re-introduction into Texas of the DDC rabies variant from Mexico and a new variant, the Arizona fox variant (AF), from Mexico and New Mexico.

[Oral Rabies Vaccination Program \(ORVP\) | Texas DSHS](#)

New World Screwworm

New World Screwworm (NWS) are larvae of the NWS fly that lays eggs in wounds or mucous membranes of live animals. The larvae, or maggots, burrow into the flesh similar to a screw being driven into wood. NWS can infest livestock, wildlife, pets, birds, and in rare instances, humans.

Below we will cover what to look for, avoid, and how to prevent infestation with NWS.

In **animals and livestock**, NWS flies are attracted to open wounds and mucous membranes such as the eyes, mouth, or nose. Newborn or injured animals are the most at risk for NWS infestation and severe infestations are almost always fatal if they are left untreated. Some signs of infestation in livestock include head shaking, irritated behavior, foul or decaying smell, and the presence of larvae in wounds.

NWS can impact **hunters**, as NWS flies are also attracted to antlers after shedding. When hunting, look for any hide or antler deformities, animals in

pain or lethargic, and any social animals that may be isolating themselves. These signs could indicate a possible NWS infestation.

When harvesting, it is always important to wear personal protection equipment (PPE) and check for any larvae or maggots.

Human infestations are rare, but some circumstances can increase the risk for a NWS infestation. Risk factors include the following: traveling to areas with NWS flies, spending extended amounts of time near livestock, having an open wound or medical condition that causes open sores.

Remember that NWS is unique in that they are attracted to live, flesh while other maggots are seen in deceased flesh.

To prevent NWS infestation, be sure to keep any open wounds covered and clean. Wearing long sleeve shirts and pants and using insect repellent can keep NWS flies at bay.

If you believe you have seen signs of NWS in human or animal populations, be sure to follow the steps below!

Animals

- contact a veterinarian or local wildlife services
- record the location and take photos of the wound or larvae
- wash hands, gear, and any equipment with soap and water
- do not eat, handle, or transport the animal(s) or its meat

Humans

- Contact your healthcare provider
- Do not dispose of any larvae or eggs in the trash or outside
- Any larvae or eggs should be placed in a leak-proof container and submerged with 70% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol
 - Usually done by the provider and will be submitted for testing

Image of New World Screwworm Fly | [USDA](#)



For more information about New World Screwworm, visit the links below!

[New World Screwworm | DSHS Zoonosis](#)

[Clinical Overview: New World Screwworm | CDC](#)

[New World Screwworm: A Threat to Wildlife](#)

[New World Screwworm: Veterinary Considerations for Dogs and Cats that Travel Internationally](#)

Looking for a Quick Resource?

- [Public Health Region 7 Zoonosis Control](#)
- [Zoonosis Control Branch](#)
- [TexasACO.org](#)
- [TexasRabies.org](#)
 - [Submitting Rabies Specimens to DSHS Laboratory](#)
 - [DSHS Laboratory Correspondence and Bulletins](#)
 - Important information regarding specimen submission during holidays, inclement weather, and other lab closures
- [TexasORVP.org](#)
- [TXWestNile.org](#)
- [Submitting A Triatomine](#)
- [Submitting a Tick](#)
- [CDC.gov](#)

Sharing Contact Information

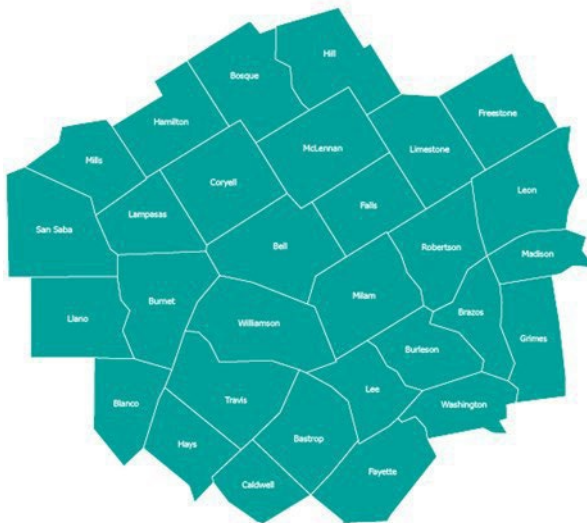
If you would know of others in your agency or community who want to know about zoonosis control events in Central Texas, encourage them to share their contact information by completing the contact form enclosed. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the QR code and complete the linked form.

If you have any questions, please use our shared mailbox: DSHS.HSR7.ZOO@dshs.texas.gov

Unsubscribe



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{Note: the rabies data presented in this document were obtained through a passive reporting system and may be subject to change. The data was based solely on the results of animals submitted for rabies testing. There were many more animals (particularly wildlife) that died of rabies that were not submitted for rabies testing.}



DSHS Central Texas

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Please complete this form and return (by email or fax) to subscribe to PHR 7 news, upcoming courses, and event information.

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City, State, Zip:		
Phone:		
Mobile:		
Fax:		
Email:		
		☐ Animal Control Officer ☐ Code Enforcement ☐ Healthcare Professional ☐ Law Enforcement ☐ Licensed Veterinary Technician ☐ Veterinarian ☐ Other (be specific):