



Region 8 Animal Control Newsletter

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PHOTO COURTESY WeForAnimalsfreepicts

*for news relating to either of the following organizations, here
is their contact information*

STACCA 830-629-5287

TACA website <http://www.taca.org/>



DSHS ACO Training Course Schedule

Approved Courses conducted by the Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Branch¹

Control

Call the number provided or click on contact name for the *course date* for which you would like to register to ask questions about a particular course.

	Type	Location	Contact(s)	Phone Number
*Mar 10-12, 2010	Basic	Corpus Christi	Laura E. Robinson, D.V.M., M.S. Leticia Tamayo	(956) 444-3224
Mar 23-24, 2010	Basic	Regional Headquarters, 5425 Polk St., Houston, TX	Gary Johnson Brittany Singletary Jael Miller	(713) 767-3300
May 11-12, 2010	Basic	2408 South 37th St., Temple, TX 76504	Beverlee Nix, D.V.M. Leslie Platz Rebecca Hejnal Melissa Maass	(254) 778-6744
Jul 14-15, 2010	Basic	Conroe, TX	Gary Johnson Brittany Singletary Jael Miller	(713) 767-3300
Sep 14-15, 2010	Basic	2408 South 37th St., Temple, TX 76504	Beverlee Nix, D.V.M. Leslie Platz Rebecca Hejnal Melissa Maass	(254) 778-6744
Nov 17-18, 2010	Basic	Sugar Land, TX	Gary Johnson Brittany Singletary Jael Miller	(713) 767-3300

¹These courses serve to meet the training requirements set forth in Texas Health and Safety Code, Ch. 829, Animal Control Officer Training.

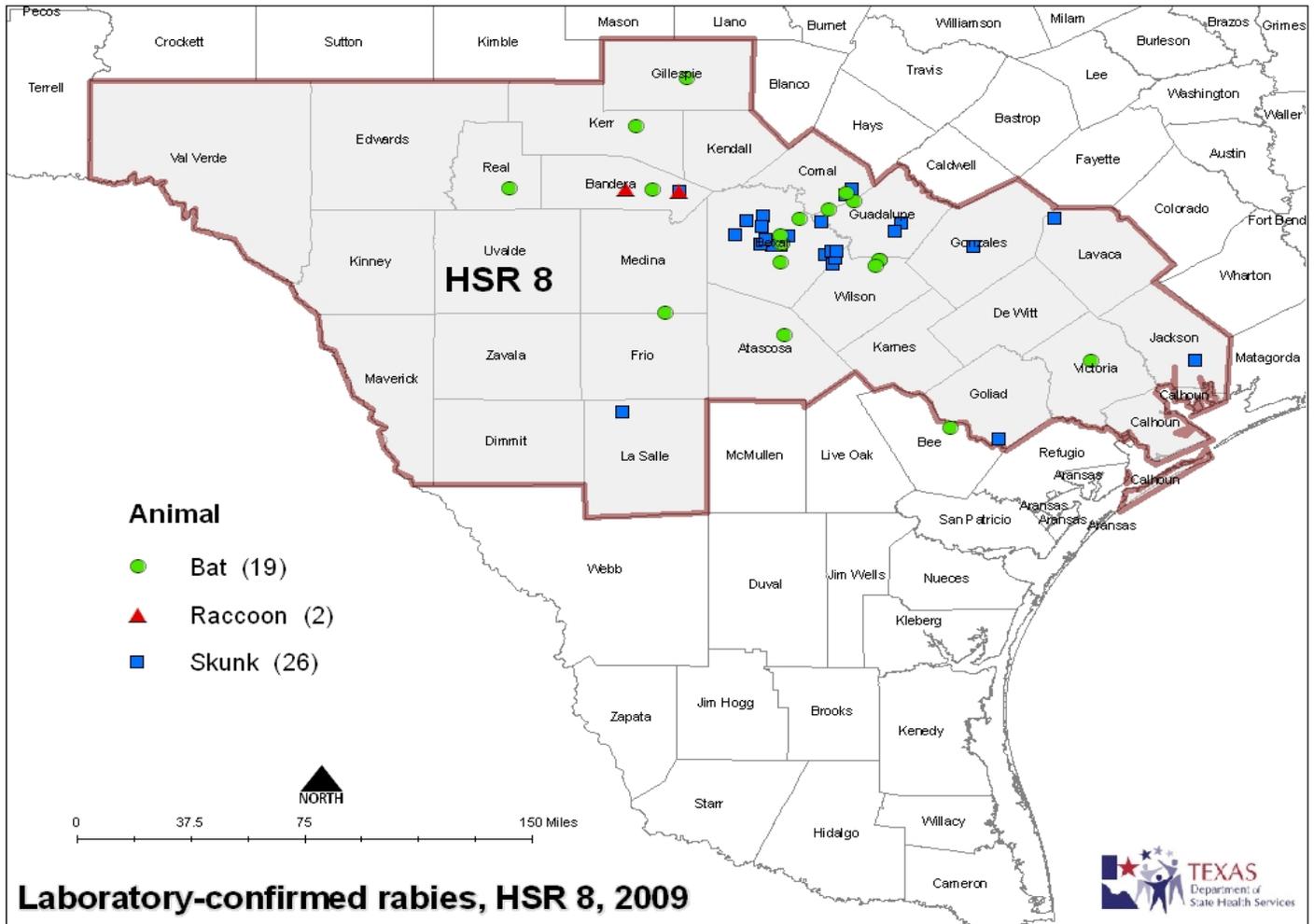
*Indicates that a course is full.

¹These courses serve to meet the training requirements set forth in Texas Health and Safety Code, Ch. 829, Animal Control Officer Training.

Internet address for non DSHS

courses<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/nonaco>

POSITIVE ANIMAL RABIES CASES FOR REGION 8 IN 2009



Red Bat Photograph Courtesy of the University of Michigan Museumzoology



Poster Contest Announcement

The Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Branch is conducting its second statewide "Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest" for K-8th grade. There are prizes provided by the Zach Jones Memorial Fund for the top three winners in each age group:

Grades K-2

Grades 3-5

Grades 6-8

There will also be a pizza party for the 1st place winners in each group.

Rabies is endemic in Texas. Skunks and bats are the most commonly affected species, and school grounds are the number one location in Texas for exposure to rabid bats. Bat bites are not always noticeable and many people are unaware that exposure to bats poses a risk. Most of these rabies exposures are preventable through education.

Information about the contest can be downloaded from the DSHS Zoonosis Control website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/information/contest/>.

Note: Your students have until early April to submit their posters. Posters must be received at our Austin office by April 9, 2010.

Some excellent resource material concerning rabies can be found at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/>

Please contact us if you have any questions!

Bonny & Skip

Bonny C. Mayes, MA

Phone: (512) 458-7111, ext. 2888

Ernest "Skip" Oertli, DVM, PhD

Phone: (512) 458-7111, ext. 3306

Zoonosis Control Branch

Texas Department of State Health Services Office Location T-813 FAX (512) 458-7454

Email: bonny.mayes@dshs.state.tx.us; ernest.oertli@dshs.state.tx.us

Web: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/>

**THE PURPOSE OF THE
POSTER PROGRAM IS TO
PROMOTE EDUCATION &
RABIES PREVENTION**

PHOTO COURTESY EHOW.COM





Attention Administrators, Faculty, and Nurses!

The Texas Department of State Health Services would like to invite the kids at your school to participate in a Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest. Rabies is a viral disease that kills over 50,000 people every year around the world. Human deaths from rabies in the United States are very rare (*approximately one death per year, almost exclusively due to rabies associated with bats*). This is due to strict animal control laws, widespread pet vaccinations, and public health intervention in identified rabies-exposure cases. Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is 100% effective when administered properly. However, the treatment is very expensive and requires multiple shots over a period of time.

Skunks and bats are the most commonly affected species in Texas, and school grounds are the number one location in Texas for exposure to rabid bats. Bat bites are not always noticeable and many people are unaware that exposure to bats poses a risk. Most of these rabies exposures are preventable through education. This is why we are encouraging school kids throughout Texas to become more aware about rabies and respecting bats and other wildlife from a distance. Children at your school can participate by entering a contest to design a poster promoting rabies awareness & prevention. Designers of the top three posters in grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will win prizes, and the winning posters will be used in a statewide rabies prevention campaign.

Please forward this information to the teachers in your school and encourage them to involve their students. This would be an excellent extra-credit project for an art or science class! Attached are an information sheet for students and an entry form containing further details and instructions. If you are interested and need additional information, feel free to contact Ms. Bonny Mayes or Dr. Skip Oertli directly. Thank you!

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES – ZOOONOSIS CONTROL BRANCH

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1100 W. 49TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78756

Mailing Address: MC-1956, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/>

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Ernest "Skip" Oertli (512) 458-7111 X3306

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Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest

Instructions for Teachers

1. Thank you for involving your students in our poster contest! Students should design the posters to emphasize ways to prevent rabies exposures and infections. Please take a little time to discuss the information provided in the student handout. Stress the importance of rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets (and livestock in frequent contact with people). Remind your students not to touch wild or unfamiliar domestic animals.
2. Schools are the #1 location for exposure to rabid bats in Texas. Please remind students that bats are an important part of our ecosystem and that most bats are not rabid. However, the bats students are most likely to come into contact with have a fairly high probability of being infected with rabies. Remind students that they need to tell an adult immediately any time they see a bat out of its natural habitat (on the ground, flying around the house, etc).
3. More information on rabies can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "Just for Kids" rabies webpage: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies and the Texas Department of State Health Services rabies webpage: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/>. For additional information about bats, visit the Bat Conservation International webpage: <http://www.batcon.org/>.
4. Texas residents in Kindergarten through 8th grade are eligible to participate.
5. Posters must be on unlined paper and be at least 8½" by 11" and may not exceed 11" by 17". Poster content and drawings must be original. Poster submissions should be eye-catching and informative, yet text should be minimal and easily readable.
6. An entry form (see below) must be attached to each poster.
7. *Submit posters to Bonny Mayes, Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Control Branch, MC-1956, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347. **Posters must be received by April 9, 2010.**
8. Posters submitted from all over the state will be judged on or before April 30, 2010 – the winners' teachers will be notified via phone and/or email by the week of May 3, 2010.
9. There will be a first, second, and third place prize for each age group (grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8). Prizes will be provided by the *Zach Jones Memorial Fund* – for more information visit: <http://www.zachjonesmemorial.org/>. For age groups 3-5 & 6-8: first prize is an iPod, second prize is a Walmart Gift Card, and third prize is a bat-oriented item. Prizes for grades K-2: first prize is a Walmart Gift Card, and second and third prizes are bat-oriented items.
10. The classroom of the winning (1st place) artist from each age group will be treated to a pizza party (*provided by the Zach Jones Memorial Fund*). This is limited to 25 students.
11. The artwork from the top-ranking posters will be consolidated into a single poster which will be made available for downloading from the DSHS webpage. All posters become the property of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

***Please attach a completed copy of this form to each poster.**

In addition, please write student's name, age and school on the back of the poster.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Nurse's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

All entries must be received by the Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Control Branch,
MC-1956, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347 by **April 9, 2010.**

Rabies Awareness and Prevention Poster Contest

Information & Instructions for School Kids!!



Do you know what rabies is?

- It's a sickness that affects the brain of mammals. Mammals are animals with hair - female mammals have mammary glands for making milk for their babies.
- Rabies makes wild animals act strange. For example, they don't mind being near people or the animal might have trouble walking or flying (bats).
- Wild mammals that have rabies can give this sickness to other animals and people by biting. This can also happen if the saliva of a rabid animal gets into the eyes, nose, mouth, or open cuts on the skin of another animal or person.
- Rabies can make animals and people VERY sick, so sick that the animal dies. Luckily, there is medicine that can keep people and their pets from getting rabies if it's given right away.

What mammals are most likely to have rabies in Texas?

- Skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and bats are high-risk animals for having rabies. Texas has more bats test positive for rabies than any other state in the US!
- Even cats and dogs sometimes get rabies from wild animals. They can then give rabies to other animals and people.

What mammals are least likely to have rabies in Texas?

- Cage-raised animals like hamsters.
- Wild rats, mice, squirrels, and rabbits.
- Domestic dogs, cats, and ferrets current on their rabies shots.

What do you know about bats?

- Bats are helpful in nature. Most eat pesky insects and some pollinate plants.
- There are 43 kinds of bats in the United States and Texas has 33 of these kinds! Texas has the largest known city bat group in Austin and the largest known cave group near San Antonio.
- If a bat is sick with rabies, it might not be able to fly and you could find one on the ground.
- It can be hard to see bite marks from a bat because their teeth can be very small.

Do you know what to do if you see a bat?

- Don't touch it! Find an adult and show it to them immediately.
- If you see a bat at school, tell a teacher right away!

Do you know how to keep your dog, cat, or ferret safe from getting sick with rabies?

- Take your pet to your veterinarian every year.
- The veterinarian will make sure your dog, cat, or ferret is vaccinated for rabies, just like when you go to the doctor to get your shots.
- Keep your pet away from wild animals that can have rabies.
- There are also rabies vaccinations for horses and livestock, such as cows and sheep.

Now we want you to draw something about what you've just learned. Your drawing must be original! Your teacher will give you some additional instructions. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Bat (mammal that can fly)



Skunk



Fox



Cat playing with a bat



Dog on a leash



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Phone: (830) 591-4383
Fax: (830) 278-7170

NOTICE

Positive Animal Rabies Case

This is the 6th case for Region 8 in 2010 and the first case for Uvalde County.

Animal Submitted: Dog AV792

Date of Incident 02/10/2010

Where: Uvalde County

How: A 22 month old dog became positive for rabies, presumably after encountering a rabid skunk at an undetermined time point. The dog was originally taken to a local animal health clinic for injuries it sustained while chewing its way through a wood and metal door and entering the residence. The dog was euthanized and submitted for rabies testing by the attending veterinarian a few days later, after developing



obvious neurologic signs and its condition declined further. Investigation into the case by DSHS demonstrated that were 3 other dogs at the residence with varied vaccination histories. One dog, that had never been vaccinated was killed and delivered to the veterinarian. The second dog a pregnant female that was approximately half way through the gestational period and up to date on its vaccinations, was given a booster vaccination by the attending veterinarian is being isolated at home for the required 45 day period. The 3rd dog, an adult blue heeler mix that had received only one dose of rabies vaccine as a puppy, was taken to another veterinarian where it was evaluated and started on its 3 dose vaccination protocol and is being held in isolation for the required 90 day period.

Neither the owners of the dogs or the veterinary technicians and staff at the original clinic (one of which had been bitten by the animal), were vaccinated for rabies, bringing the total needing post-exposure treatment to nine. All nine individuals are presently undergoing rabies post-exposure prophylaxis according to protocol.

**You never know when a wild animal will visit.
Make sure to keep your pets vaccinated against rabies!**

We recommend that this information be shared with the following:

Local Health Authorities

Police Department personnel

Area hospitals

Newspapers

Animal Control Officers

Veterinarians

For more information, please call Zoonosis Control in Uvalde at 830/ 591-4383, 591-4385, or 591-4382

Radio

Photograph source open-site.org/animalhealth