

# MARYLAND BULLETIN



September 14, 2021 Volume 11, Issue 2

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Jurisdiction affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment

## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

**Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events**

**For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:**

MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: [ahops.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:ahops.mda@maryland.gov), 410-841-5810

MDH - Maryland Department of Health, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: [mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov), 410-767-5649

MD DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 410-226-5193

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) receives reports of wildlife disease cases via the 24/7 toll-free MD Natural Resources Police Call Center:

1-800-628-9944, the USDA/MD DNR Call Center: 1-877-463-6497, or the MD DNR Wildlife & Heritage Service office in Annapolis 1-410-260-8540.

### **Wild Bird Mortality Event—May-August 2021**

In late May, wildlife managers in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and other states began receiving reports of sick and dying birds. Several passerine bird species have been affected. No human health or domestic animal (pets, livestock and poultry) issues have been documented. As of mid-August, reports have decreased in many jurisdictions and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is lifting its previous recommendation to cease feeding birds.

The natural resource management agencies in the affected states and the District of Columbia, along with the National Park Service, continue to work with diagnostic laboratories to investigate the cause(s) of this event. Those laboratories include the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the University of Georgia Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, the University of Pennsylvania Wildlife Futures Program, the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and multiple state laboratories.

While no definitive cause (s) of illness or death have been determined, the following pathogens have not been detected, based on results received to date: Salmonella and Chlamydia (bacterial pathogens); avian influenza virus, West Nile virus

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
<b>Domestic animals</b>	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 <a href="http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx">http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx</a>
<b>Humans</b>	MDH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 <a href="https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx">https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Home.aspx</a>
<b>Wildlife</b>	MD DNR/USDA Call Center 877-463-6497

## ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

and other flaviviruses, Newcastle disease virus and other paramyxoviruses, herpesviruses and poxviruses; and Trichomonas parasites. Transmission electron microscopy, metagenomics work, and additional diagnostic tests are ongoing.

Residents who choose to resume feeding birds and providing water in bird baths should remain vigilant and consider the following standard guidelines:

- Clean feeders and bird baths with soap and water at least once a week, then disinfect with a 10% bleach solution to prevent potential infectious disease spread between birds and other wildlife. After cleaning, rinse well with water and allow to air-dry. When handling bird feeders and baths be sure to wear disposable gloves and wash your hands when finished.
- When feeding birds follow expert recommendations such as those listed in the [Audubon International Guide to Bird Feeding](#).
- Avoid handling birds unless necessary. Dispose of dead birds in a plastic bag, seal, and discard with household trash, or alternatively, bury them deeper than 3 feet to prevent disease transmission to other animals. If handling is necessary, wear disposable gloves or use plastic bags on your hands to avoid contact with carcasses.
- Keep pets away from sick or dead wildlife.

Report sick or dying birds to the Maryland DNR / USDA Wildlife Services Call Center at 1-877-463-6497 or 410-349-8130 ).

Find a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator:

[https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants\\_wildlife/rehabilitators.aspx](https://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/plants_wildlife/rehabilitators.aspx).

Maryland DNR greatly appreciates the assistance of the public and wildlife rehabilitation facilities during this outbreak. Wildlife disease investigations take time and can be inherently challenging. Additional information and guidance will be shared as more results are confirmed.

### ***Reminder: Fillable Form Available for Submission of Rabies Vaccine Delay Requests***

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is pleased to announce that we now offer a fillable form that veterinarians may use to submit a Request for Rabies Vaccination Delay. The Maryland Request for Rabies Vaccination Delay form allows veterinarians to request a permanent or temporary delay of future rabies vaccinations for a Maryland dog, cat, or ferret due to medical or safety concerns. In addition to the printable request forms that have been previously available, a new fillable form has been posted on the MDH Rabies website under the subheading "For Veterinarians" at

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx> . Direct link to the form submission:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/MDH3/MarylandRequestForRabiesVaccinationDelay>

Please click on the link entitled "Request for Rabies Vaccine Delay (online form)" on the above website. This new fillable version of the form will streamline the submission process by allowing the submitter to complete the form entirely online and send it to our office electronically (no need for printing or faxing). We encourage any veterinarian who wishes to submit a Rabies Vaccination Delay request to use the fillable form if possible. Please contact the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases at 410-767-5649 with any questions.

## MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2021

**Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending September 11, 2021**

Jurisdiction	Bat Total (New)	Cat Total (New)	Cow Total (New)	Dog Total (New)	Fox Total (New)	Groundhog Total (New)	Raccoon Total (New)	Skunk Total (New)	Other Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany		1(1)			3(3)					4(4)
Anne Arundel	1(1)						2(2)			3(3)
Baltimore		1					8(5)	1(1)		10(6)
Baltimore City	2(2)	1(1)			2(2)		4(4)			9(9)
Calvert					1(1)		1(1)			2(2)
Caroline					1(1)					1(1)
Carroll		1(1)			1(1)		3(2)			5(4)
Cecil		2(2)								2(2)
Charles	1(1)				1(1)	1(1)	1(1)			4(4)
Dorchester		1					2(1)			3(1)
Frederick	1(1)	3(3)			3(3)		8(8)			15(15)
Garrett										
Harford					1(1)		8(7)	1(1)		10(9)
Howard							1(1)			1(1)
Kent			1(1)		1(1)					2(2)
Montgomery	1(1)	3(2)			1(1)		13(10)	1(1)		19(15)
Prince George's	3(3)						2(1)			5(4)
Queen Anne's	1(1)									1(1)
Saint Mary's	1(1)	1			2(2)		3(3)			7(6)
Somerset										
Talbot							1(1)			1(1)
Washington					2(2)		2(2)		1(1)	5(5)
Wicomico		1					2(2)			3(2)
Worcester					1(1)		1(1)			2(2)
<b>Total (New)</b>	<b>11(11)</b>	<b>15(10)</b>	<b>1(1)</b>		<b>20(20)</b>	<b>1(1)</b>	<b>62(52)</b>	<b>3(3)</b>	<b>1(1)</b>	<b>114(99)</b>

**Other: Beaver 1(1)**

**For complete animal rabies data:**

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/pages/Data-and-Statistics.aspx>

**To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):**

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx>

**Maryland Department of Health Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:**

<https://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/Pages/PHPSA.aspx>

**National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:**

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc>

**U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:**

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information>

**Maryland Department of Health Weekly Influenza Report:**

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>