



# Rabies is Still Here: Epidemiology, Outbreaks, and Costs of Prevention in the United States

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call

Thursday, April 30, 2026

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# Objectives

At the conclusion of today's session, the participant will be able to accomplish the following:

- Describe the four key components of a rabies exposure risk assessment when evaluating a bite victim and the unique considerations of rabies epizootiology in the United States.
- Explain the occupational risk that rabies in livestock can present to farmers and veterinarians and how to mitigate that risk.
- Describe the importance of a thorough rabies exposure assessment prior to recommending the patient for post-exposure prophylaxis vaccination.

# To Ask a Question

- Using the MS Teams Platform
  - The ability to ask questions during the live webinar is limited to the first 1,000 attendees who join the webinar.
  - Questions may be submitted after the live session by emailing [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).
- If you are a patient, please refer your question to your healthcare provider.
- If you are a member of the media, please direct your questions to CDC Media Relations at 404-639-3286 or email [media@cdc.gov](mailto:media@cdc.gov).

# Today's Presenters

- **Ryan Wallace, DVM**  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Carrie Klumb, MPH**  
Senior Epidemiologist  
Rabies Surveillance Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Health
- **Katy Donovan, PhD**  
Deputy State Epidemiologist, Rhode Island Department of Health  
Office of Readiness and Response  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Alexia "Allie" Goodman, MPH**  
Public Health Epidemiologist  
Rhode Island Department of Health



CDC COCA Call: April 30, 2026

# Rabies is Still Here: Epidemiology, Outbreaks, and Costs of Prevention in the United States





# Rabies Landscape in the United States

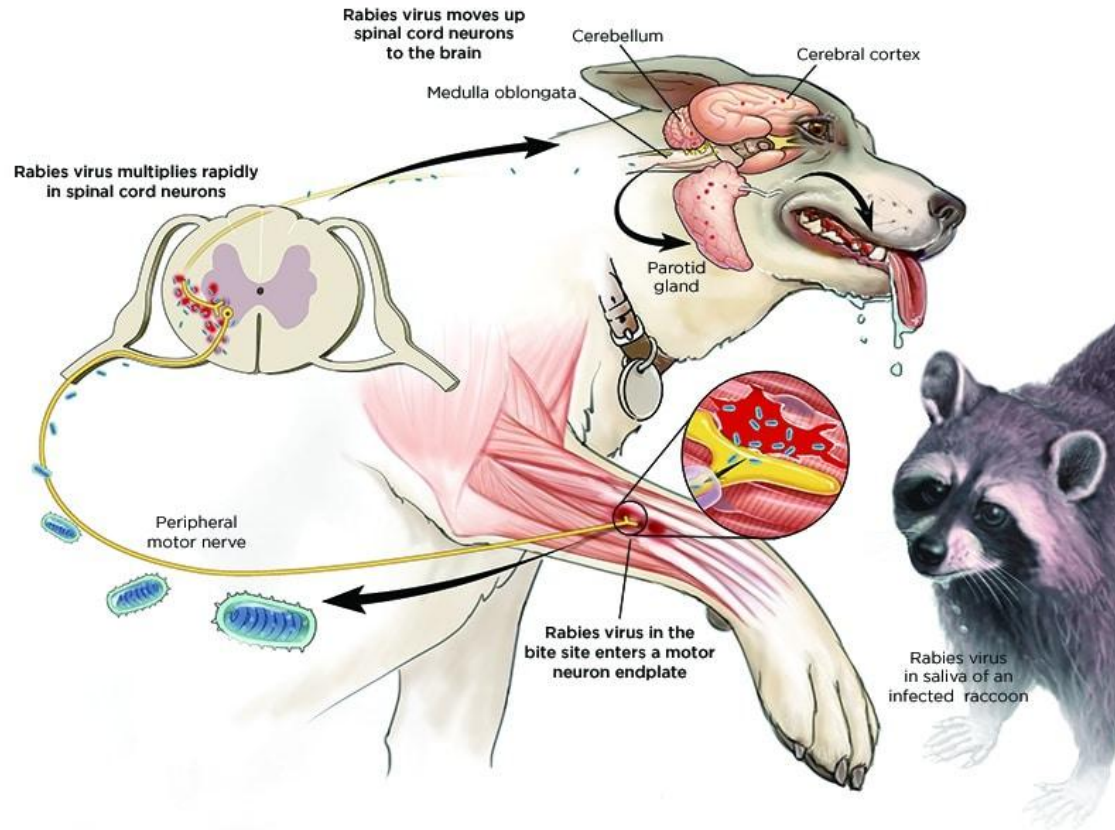
**Ryan Wallace, DVM**  
Veterinary Medical Officer  
Division of High-consequence Pathogens and  
Pathology  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic  
Infectious Diseases  
April 30, 2026



# Rabies!



# Rabies virus transmission

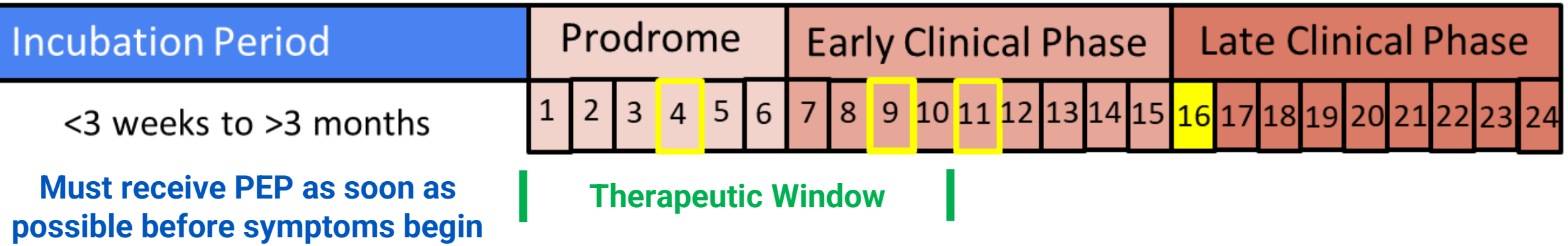


- Transmission primarily via bite
- Viruses are highly neurotropic
  - Enter peripheral nerves
  - Travel from peripheral nerves to CNS, including brain
  - Replicate in CNS
  - Disseminate via nerves to innervated organs, including salivary glands, the primary portal of exit
  - Viral excretion in saliva
- Death days to weeks after symptom onset

# Clinical features of rabies infection



Fever  
 Malaise  
 Flu-like Illness  
 Confusion  
 Hypersalivation  
 Hydrophobia  
 Paresthesia  
 Paralysis  
 Respiratory Failure  
 Autonomic Instability  
 Cerebral Edema  
**Death**



# Rabies is preventable

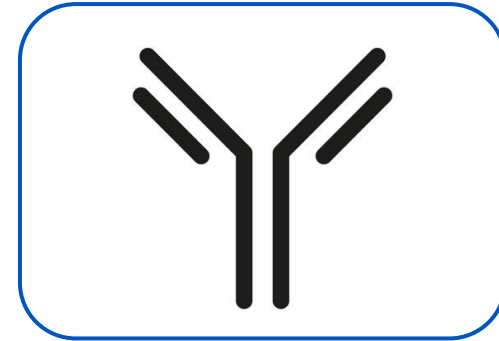


1885 Pasteur vaccine first used on a patient

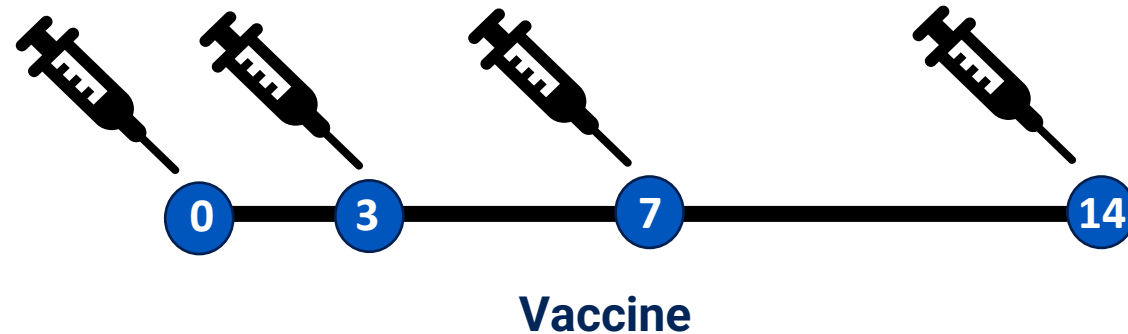
## Rabies Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)



Wound care



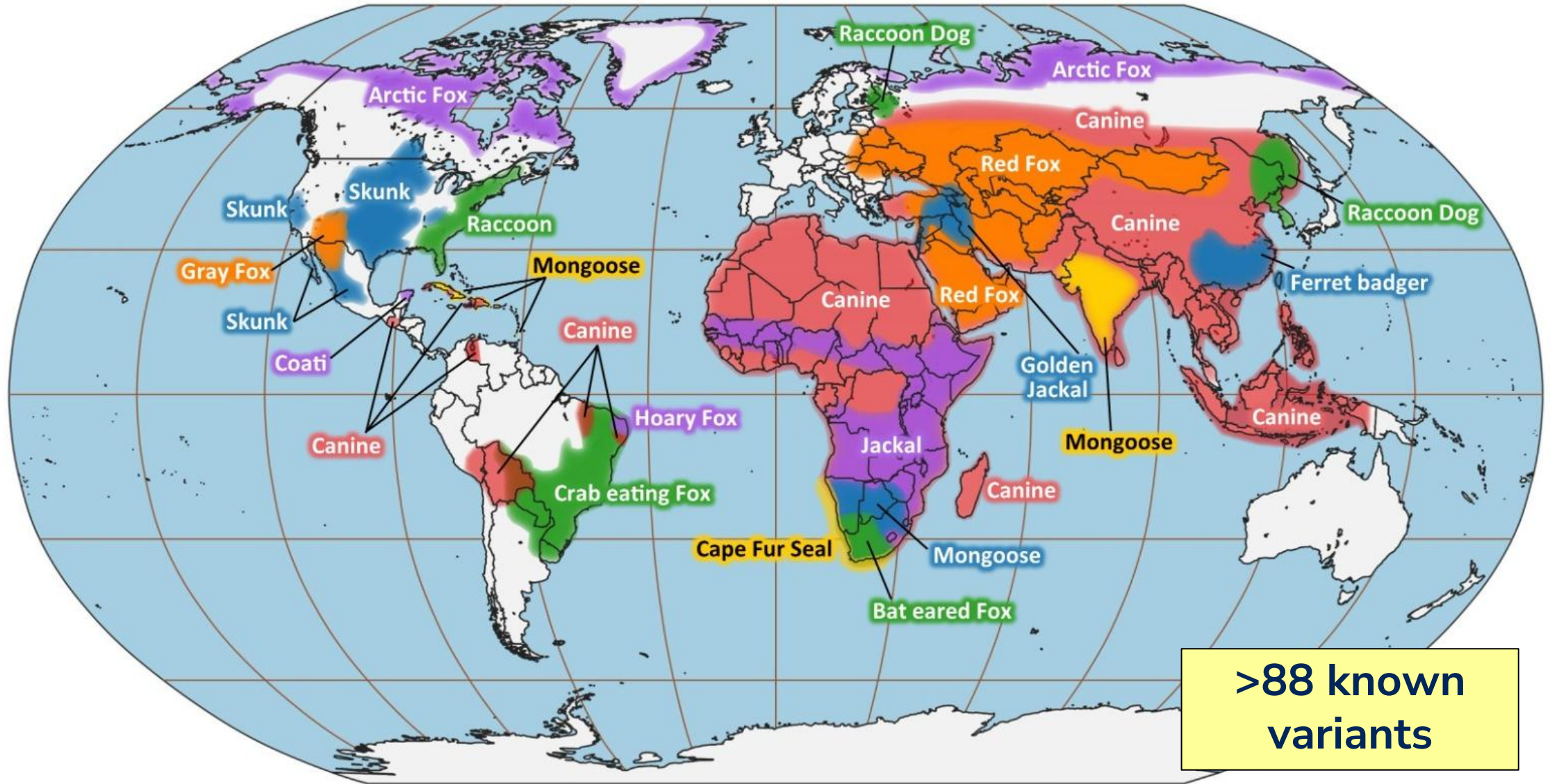
Immunoglobulin



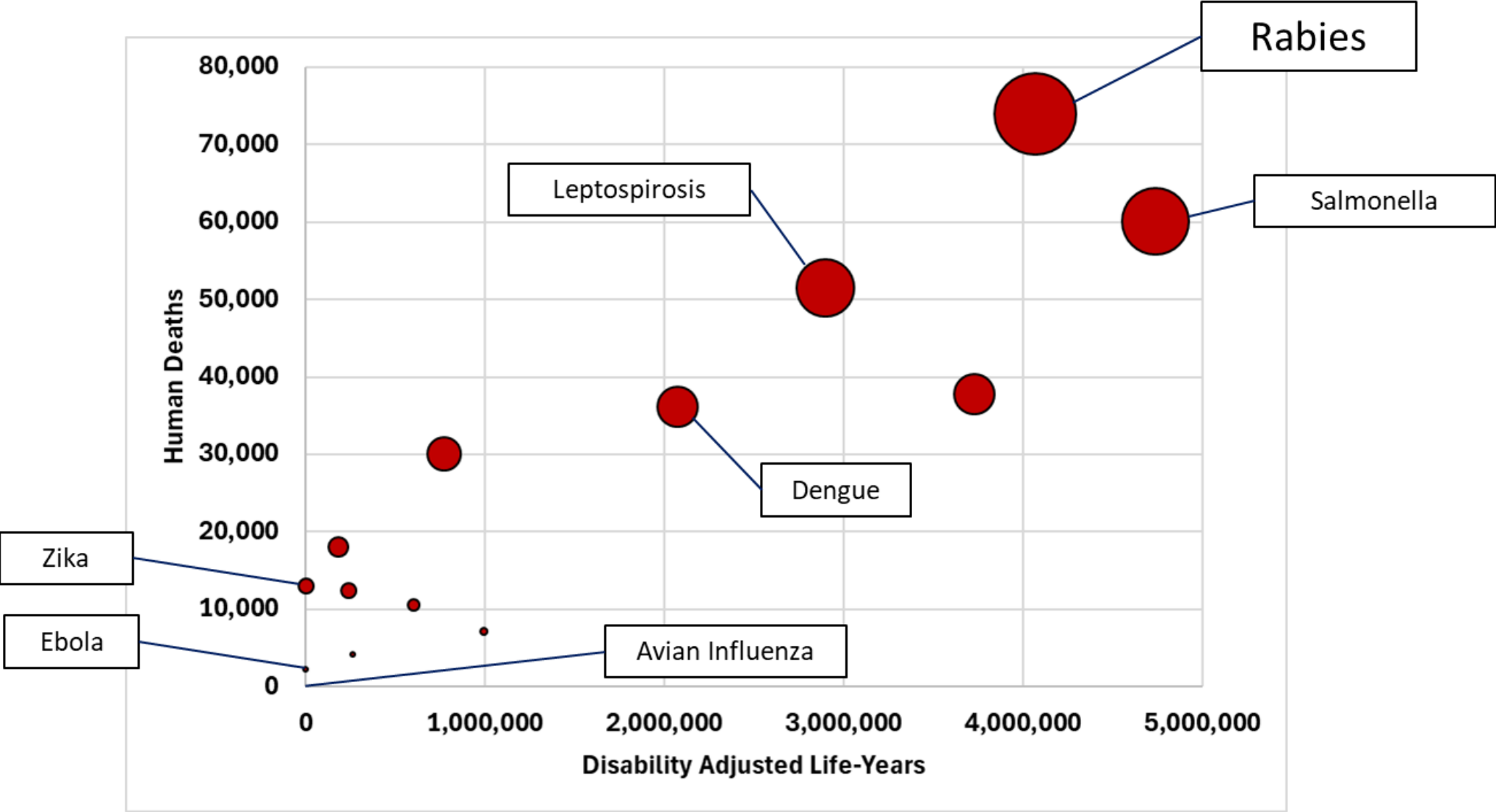
# Rabies reservoirs, spillover, and host-shifts



# Rabies virus reservoirs across the globe



# Rabies is the **deadliest** zoonotic disease globally





**But rabies is  
rare in the  
United States  
... right?**

# Rabies in the news showing it's still impacting the United States

## Bat flies into woman's mouth in Arizona, costing her nearly \$21,000 in medical bills

Erica Kahn, who lives in Massachusetts, wasn't insured when she had a close encounter with the flying mammal at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.



**NBC NEWS** WATCH

HEALTH NEWS

### After Michigan patient dies of rabies from a transplanted kidney, donor's other recipients get preventive shots

The same donor provided corneal grafts for three patients, the CDC said. Those patients have been given shots to prevent rabies and are currently healthy.

A microscopic image showing several blue, rod-shaped structures, likely rabies virus particles, against a yellowish background.

# Wrong!

## Rabies on the Rise in Southern AZ – Just In Time for Spring Camping Season

AZ PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION > BLOG CLASSIC > ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH > RABIES ON THE RISE IN SOUTHERN AZ – JUST IN TIME FOR SPRING CAMPING SEASON



## Josephine County foxes test positive for rabies

Liv Collom Apr 10, 2025 Updated Apr 10, 2025

f x m p d

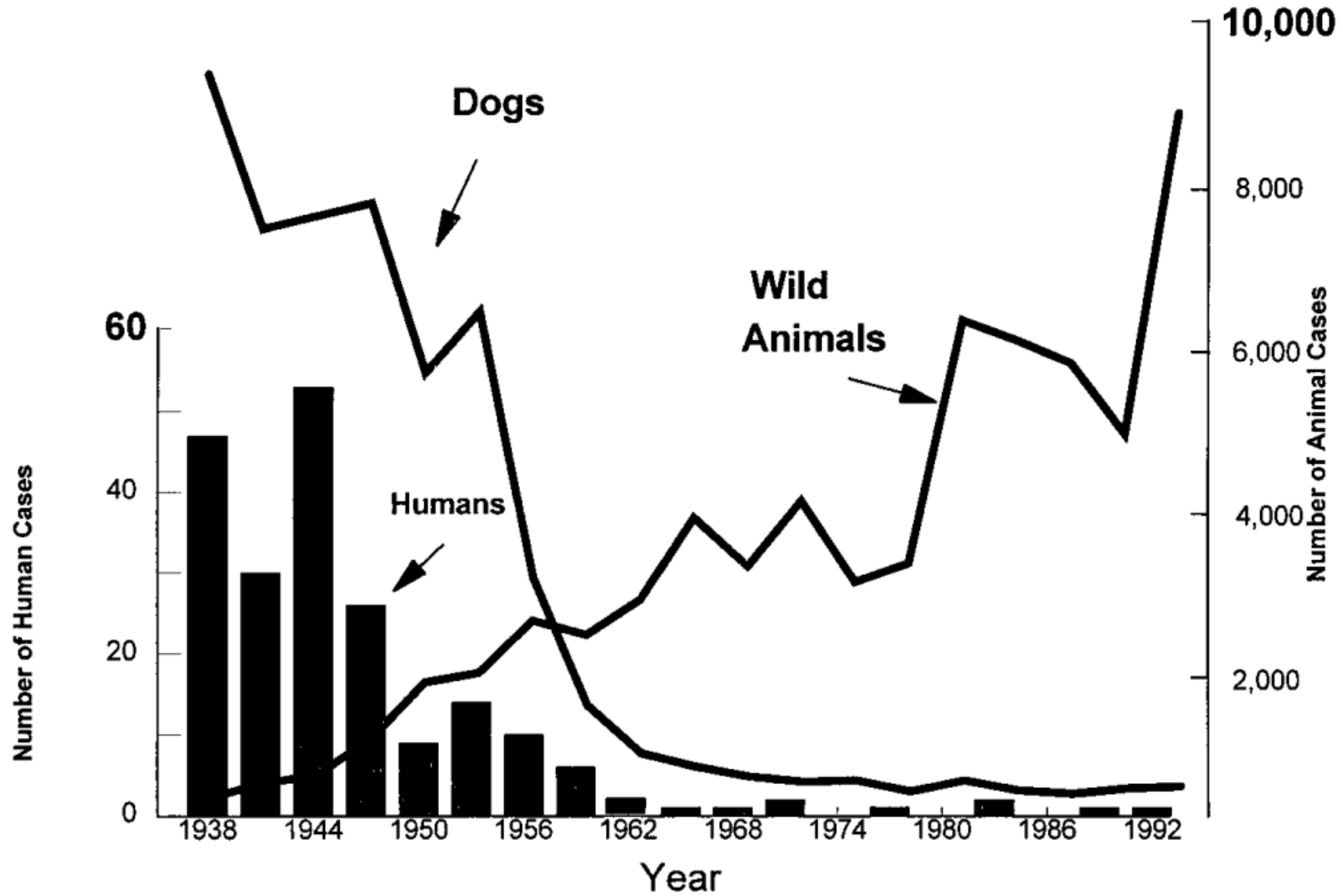


## Maine Med addressing bat problem in neonatal intensive care unit

Hospital officials say they are working on various measures to prevent 'bat incursions.'

Community: Portland  
Posted August 22 Updated August 22  
Joe Lawlor Staff Writer

# Changing rabies landscape in the United States



# Ever-changing rabies landscape in the United States

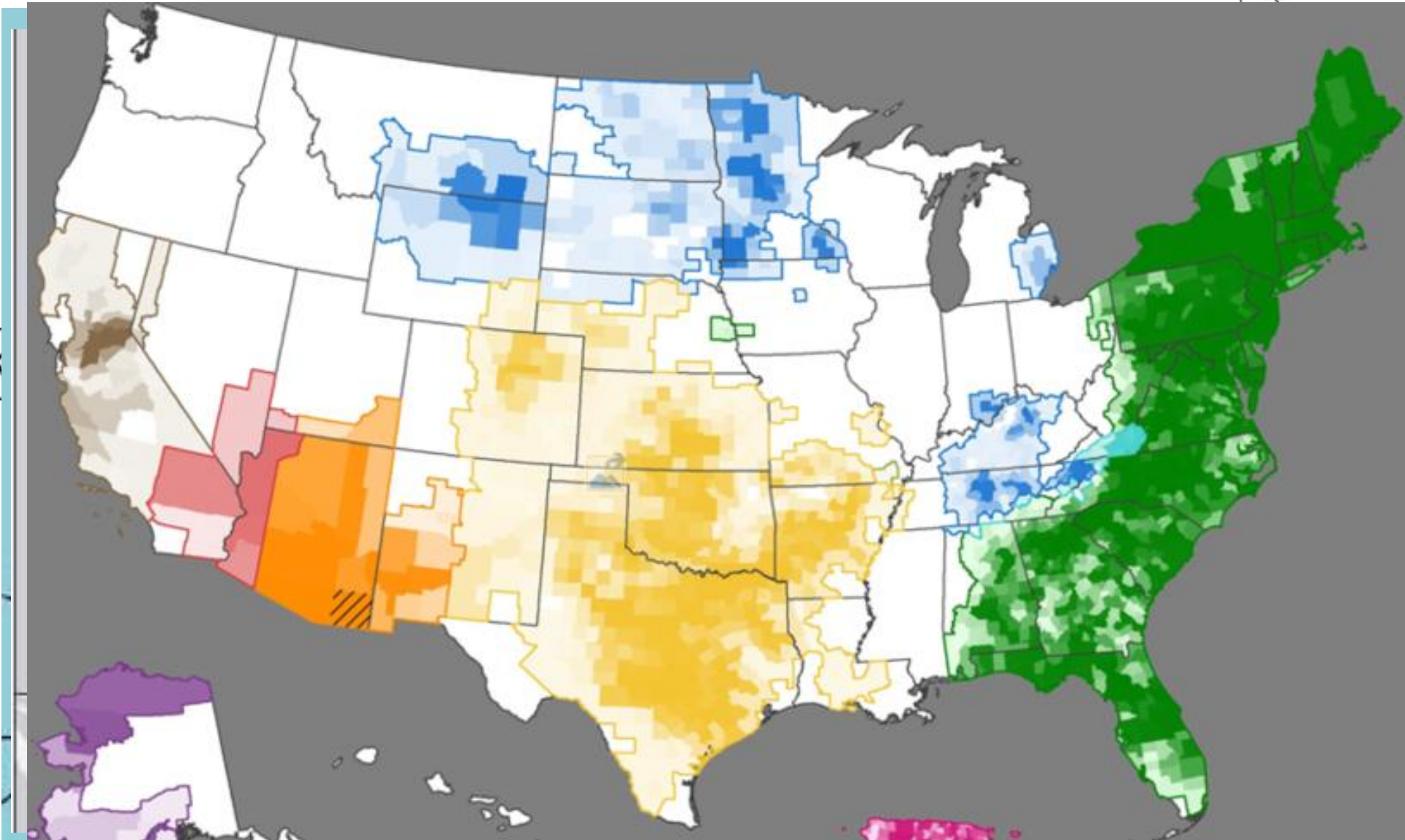
1996

2005

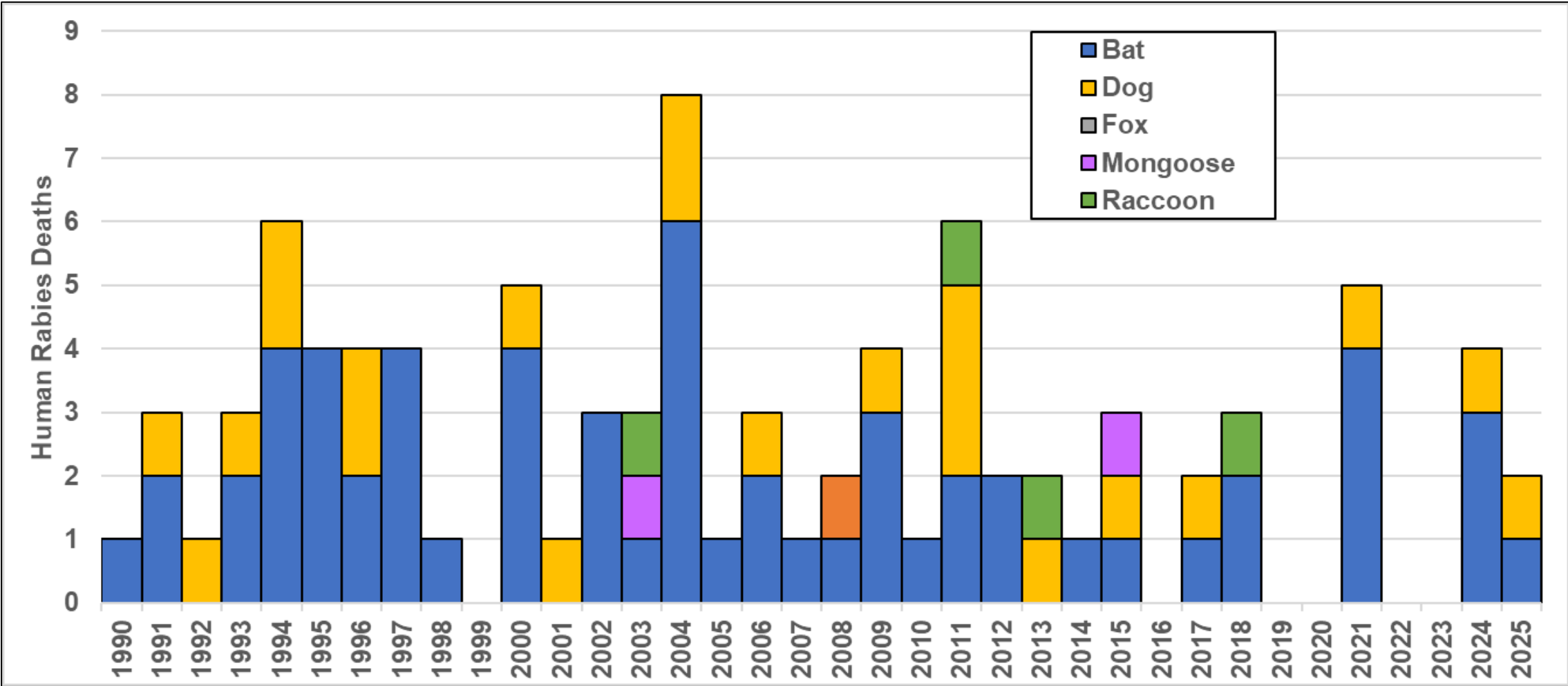
Sk

2015

2024



# Human rabies surveillance in the United States



# Rabies is a DAILY threat in the United States



1.3M consultations  
per year



USA County Map



2 rabies consultations  
every day, for every  
health department



7 per day referred  
to CDC rabies  
consultation service



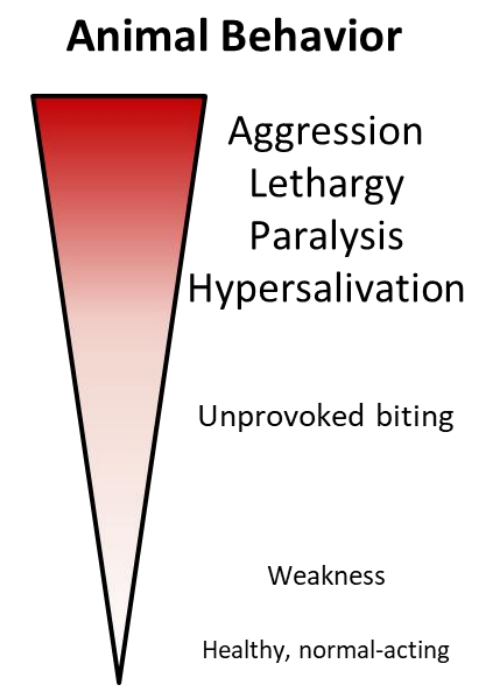
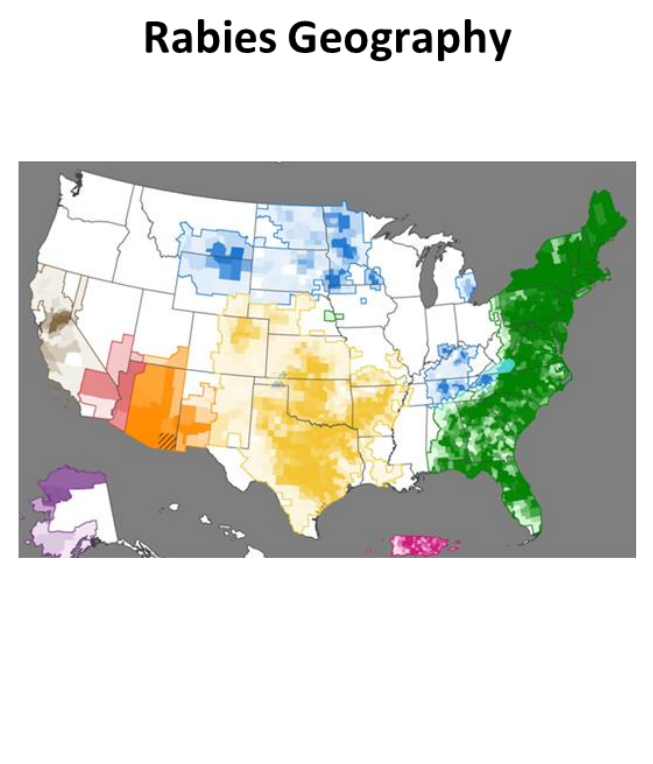
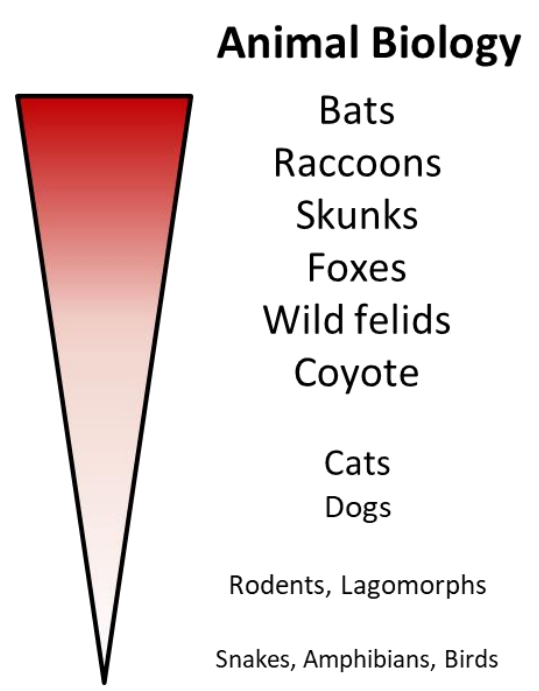
4,600+ pageviews of the  
CDC rabies site every day



14 rabid animals  
diagnosed every day

# Rabies risk assessments

- Risk assessments determine if **PEP** is indicated
- Was there an exposure from infectious materials to fresh broken skin or mucous membranes?
- Bio-Geo-Behavioral Risk Assessments
  - **Bio:** Is the animal a reservoir species or high-risk animal?
  - **Geo:** Is rabies commonly found in the area?
  - **Behavioral:** Was the animal showing signs of rabies?



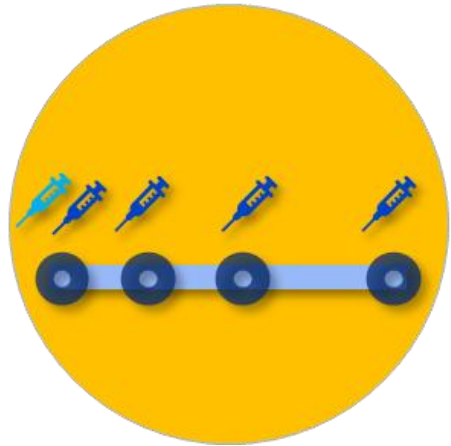
# Consequences of unnecessary PEP



**Patient financial burden (>\$12,000 per PEP course)**



**Vaccine supply shortages**



**Complex vaccine regimen**



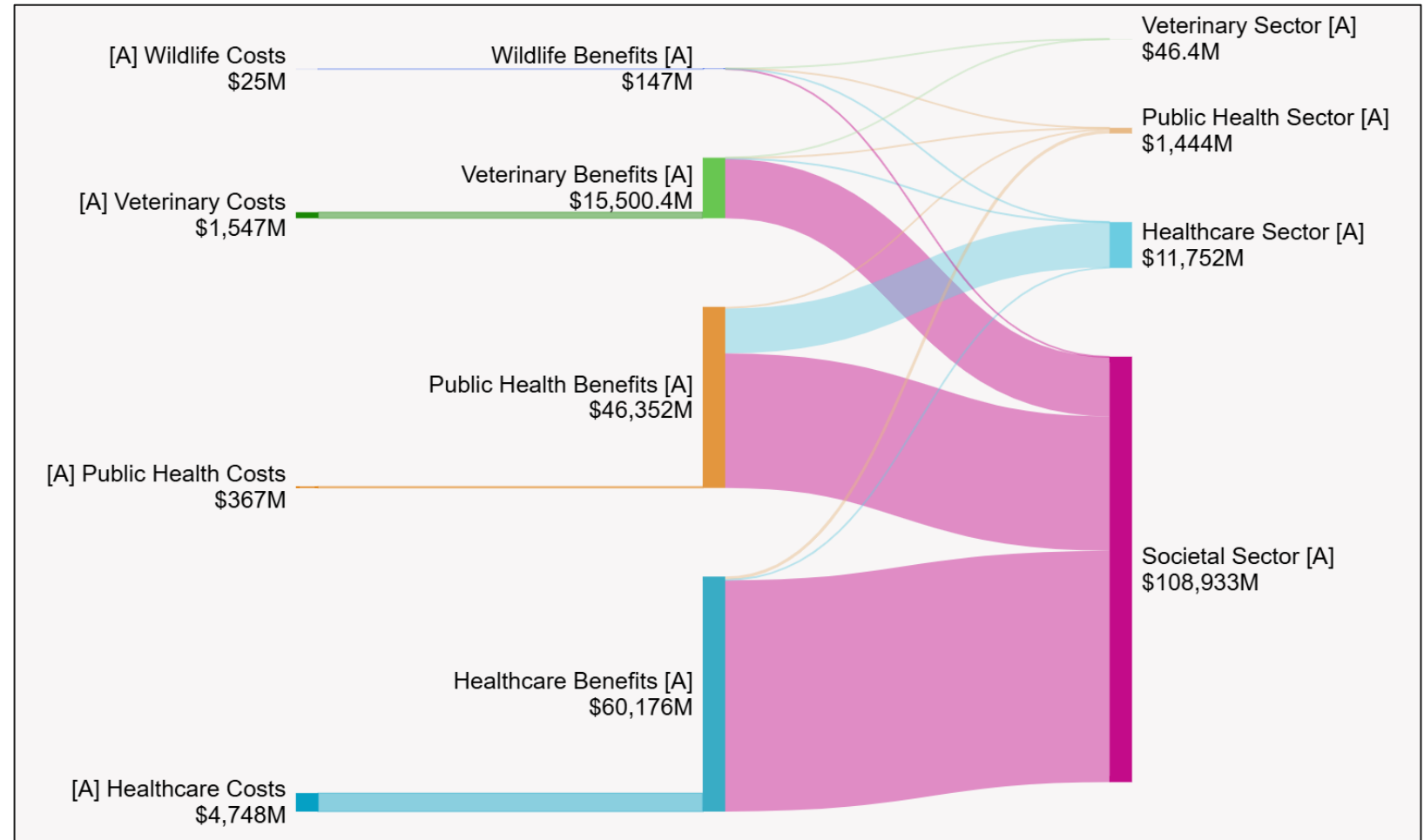
**Unnecessary adverse events**

# Costs and benefits for rabies prevention services

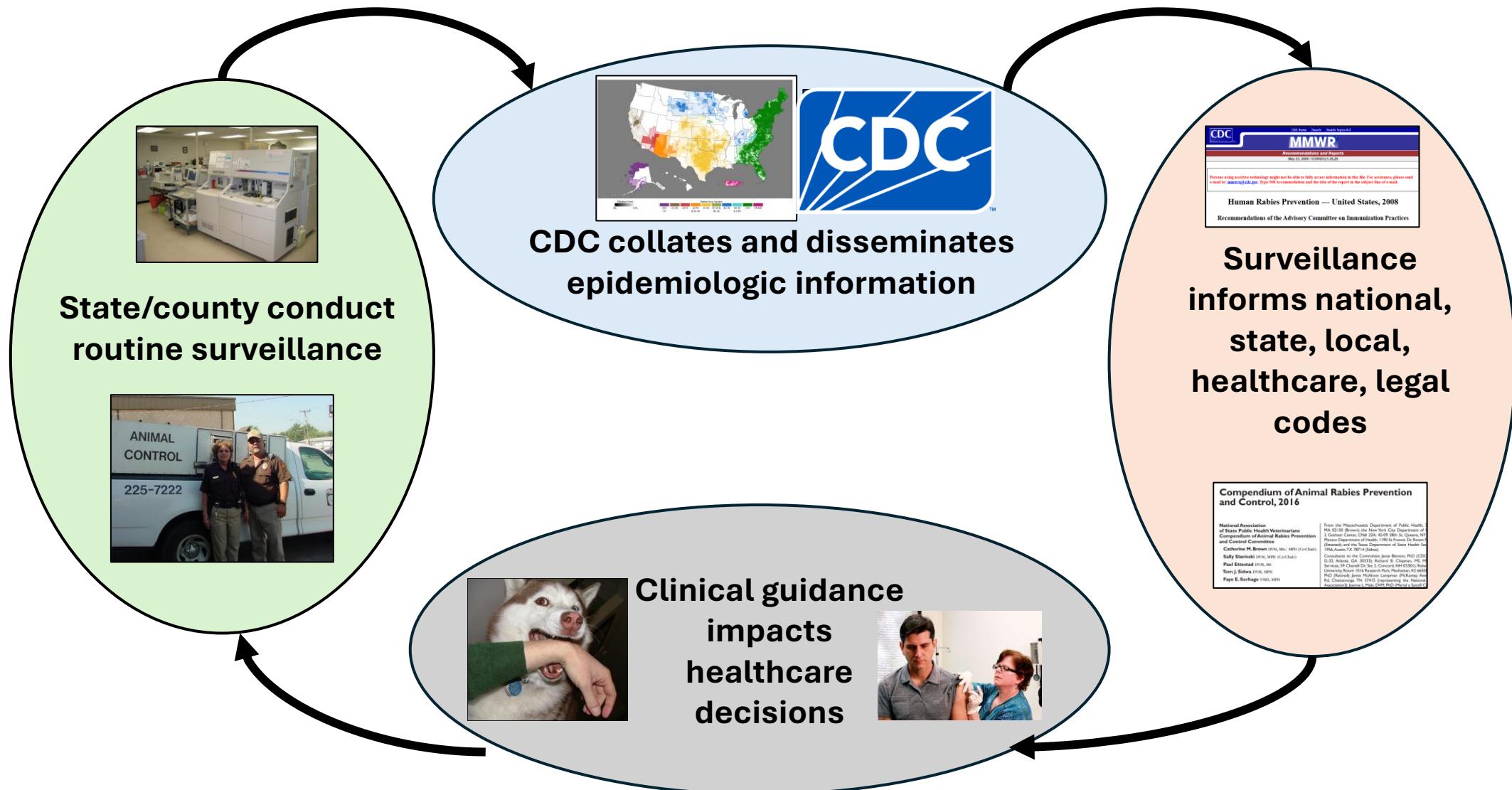
Total costs: **\$7.2B**  
 Total benefits: **\$132.5B**

Deaths averted: 3,242  
 QALY averted: 186,576

Benefit-cost Ratio: 18.2  
 Cost per QALY averted: \$39,021



# We're all in this together!



# Free resources to support rabies PEP decision-making

## Quantitative risk assessment for rabies



Pr(rabid|exposure) Pr(death|exposure)

What is the species of animal responsible for the suspected rabies exposure? In which jurisdiction did the exposure occur? What circumstances led to the rabies exposure? What is the health status of the animal? Is the animal up to date on its rabies vaccination?

Bobcat x GA x Unprovoked x Ill or acting strangely x NA x

Show 10 entries Search:

[Reset filters](#)

Animal	Jurisdiction	Provoked	Healthy	Vaccinated	LL95CrI	Median	UL95CrI
1835 Bobcat	GA	Unprovoked	Ill or acting strangely	NA	0.49	0.53	0.58

[Risk of Rabies and Implications for Postexposure Prophylaxis Administration in the US](#)

## Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Schedule Generator

Generate and evaluate rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) vaccination schedules based on ACIP guidelines

### Important: ACIP Alert

This current rabies PEP schedule is not in compliance with ACIP. Please contact public health for assistance. A list of state contacts can be found in the [CDC Health Department Directory](#).

### Vaccination Schedule

Table Calendar Card

April 2026

Recommended Actual (Valid) Deviation

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2 D1 ✓	3	4
5	6	7	8 D2 ✓	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 D3 ✓
19	20	21 (Today) D4 ⚠	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

[Rabies PEP Calculator | Rabies | CDC](#)

## Self-knowledge check: question

A 5-year-old in Washington state has a deep bite wound from his neighbor's new puppy. The child and puppy were running around with a dog toy when the puppy playfully jumped and bit. The puppy is too young to be vaccinated against rabies.

Which of the following are the correct **Bio-Geo-Behavioral** considerations for this event?

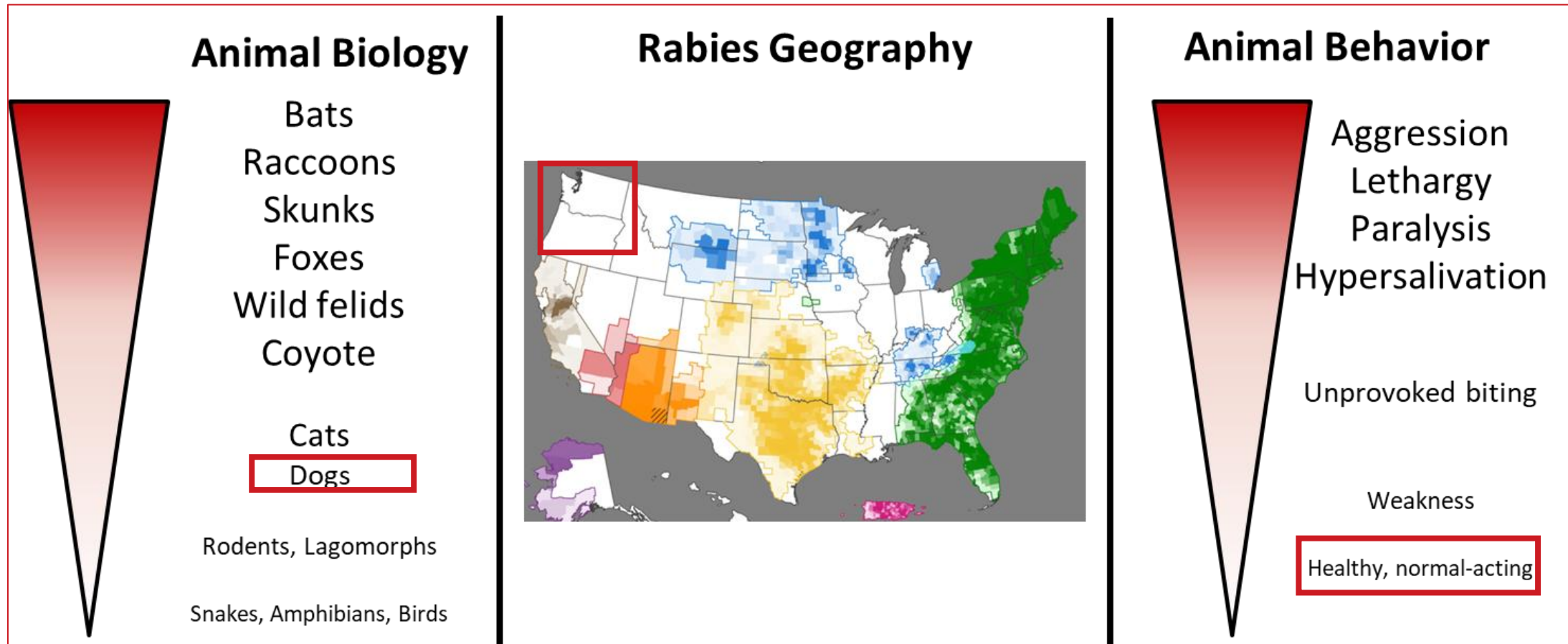


- A. High Risk / High Risk / High Risk
- B. Low Risk / High Risk / High Risk
- C. Low Risk / Low Risk / High Risk
- D. Low Risk / Low Risk / Low Risk

# Self-knowledge check: answer

The correct answer is: D. Low Risk / Low Risk / Low Risk

Because...



# Thank you.

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 <https://www.cdc.gov/>  
Follow us on social @CDCgov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.





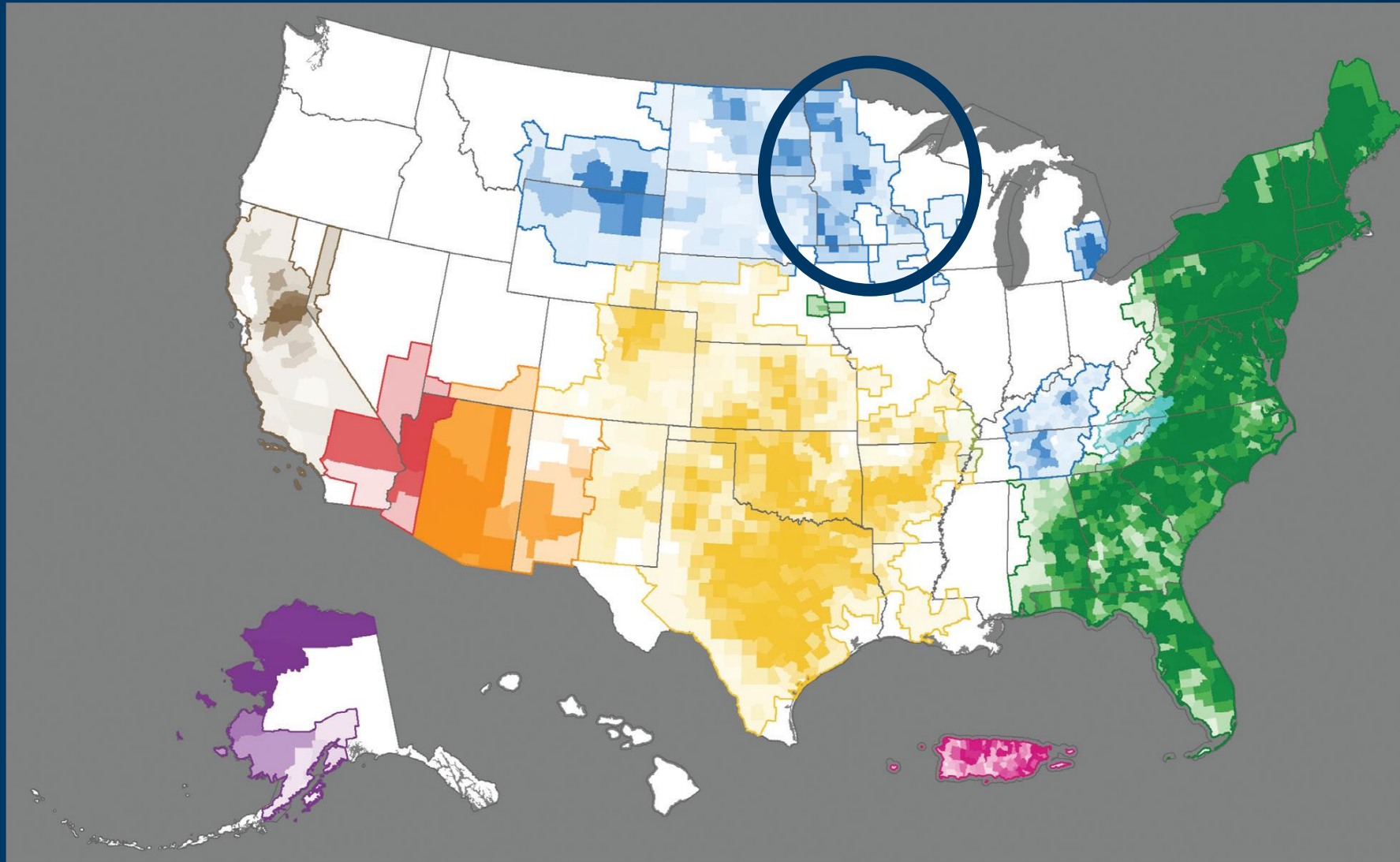
# Occupational Rabies Exposures on a Dairy Farm Minnesota, United States, 2024

**Carrie Klumb, MPH**

**Senior Epidemiologist | Zoonotic Diseases Unit**

# Distribution of Major Rabies Virus Variants (RVVs)

ARC FX = Arctic Fox  
CA SK = California Skunk  
AZ FX = Arizona Gray Fox  
SC SK = South Central Skunk  
NC SK = North Central Skunk  
E RC = Easter Raccoon  
PR MG = Puerto Rico  
Mongoose

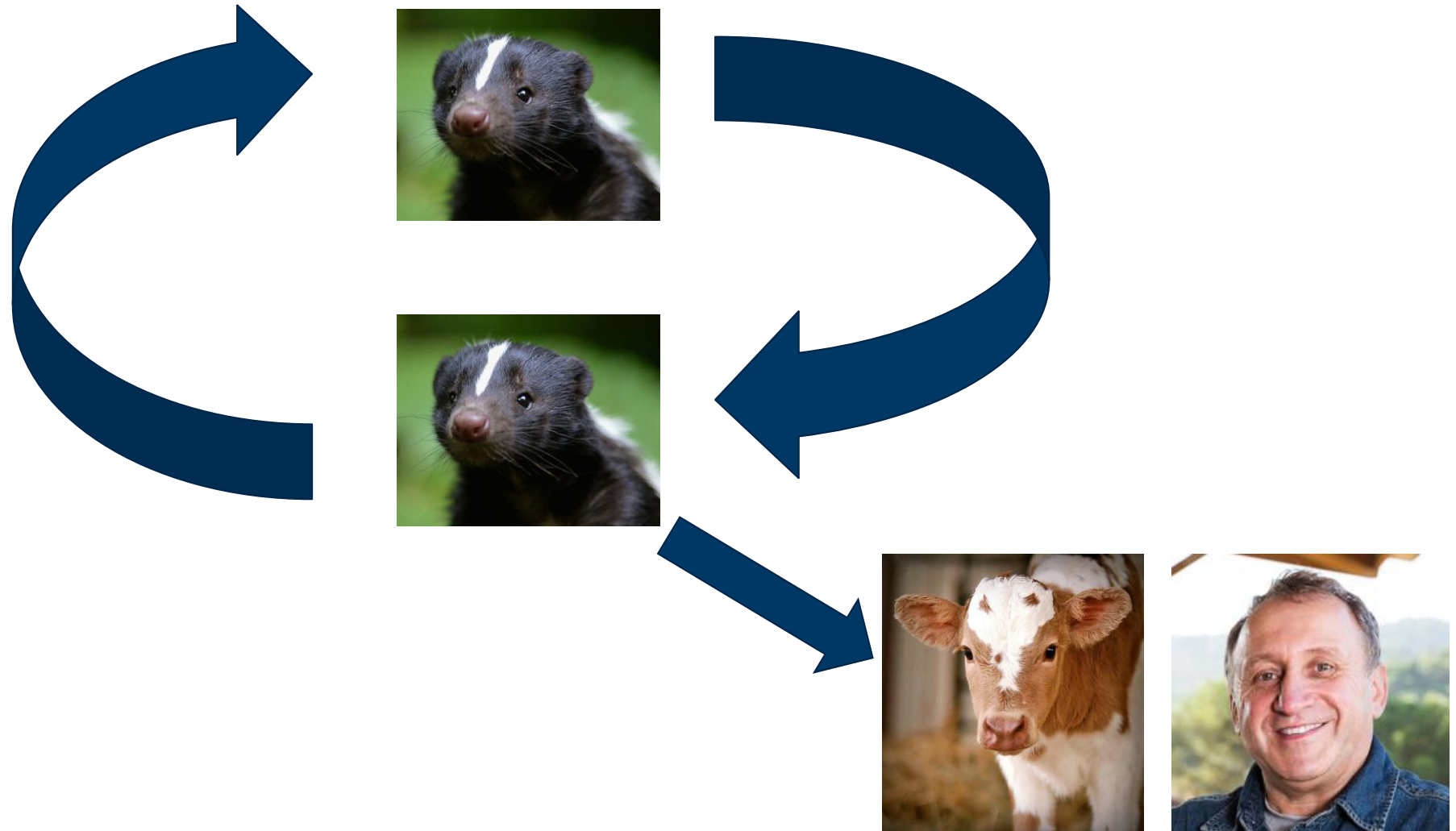


P(Rabies Free)  
0% 97%

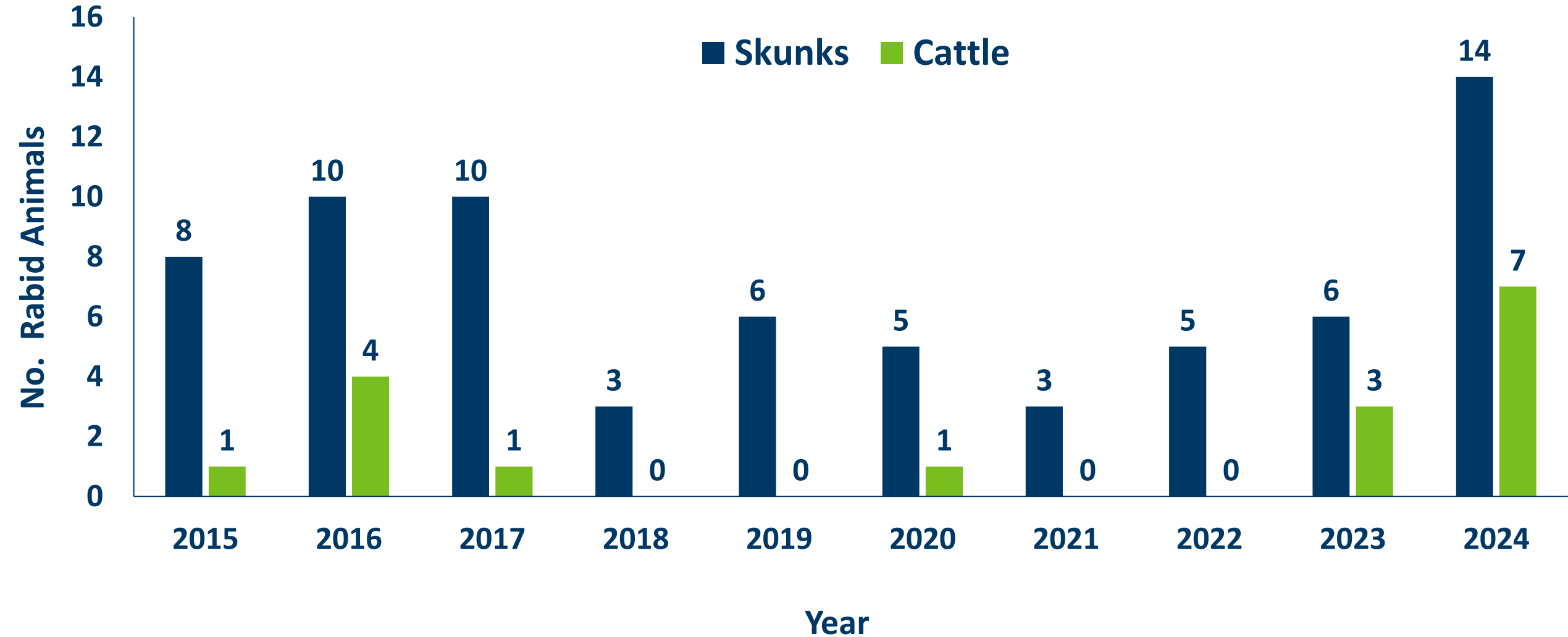
Rabies Virus Variant

ARC FX	CA SK	AZ FX	AZ FX & SC SK	SC SK	SC SK & NC SK	NC SK	NC SK & E RC	E RC	PR MG
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# Terrestrial Rabies Cycle in Minnesota



# 2024 Epizootic Among Skunks in Minnesota



# Animal Rabies Surveillance in Minnesota

- **University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL)**
- **Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory (MDH PHL)**
- **MDH Zoonotic Diseases Unit (MDH ZDU)**
- **Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH)**

# Specimen Flow Through the MN System

**Animal brought  
to VDL**



**Brain Sample  
sent to MDH-  
PHL**



**Direct  
fluorescent  
antibody test  
run on brain**



**Test results  
reported to ZDU  
and BAH**



**MDH & BAH  
risk assessments  
performed**

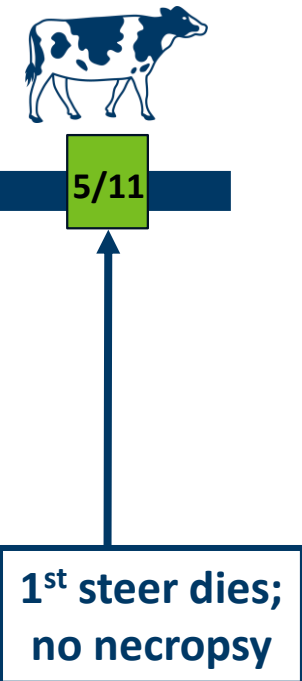
# Animal and Human Health Management

- **Domestic animals exposed to rabid animal placed under quarantine**
  - **Can range from 45 days to 180 days**
- **People exposed to a rabid animal receive rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**
  - **Human rabies immune globulin + 4 vaccines over 2 weeks**
- **Rabies still considered universally fatal once symptoms begin**
  - **PEP prevents rabies from infecting the central nervous system preventing disease onset**

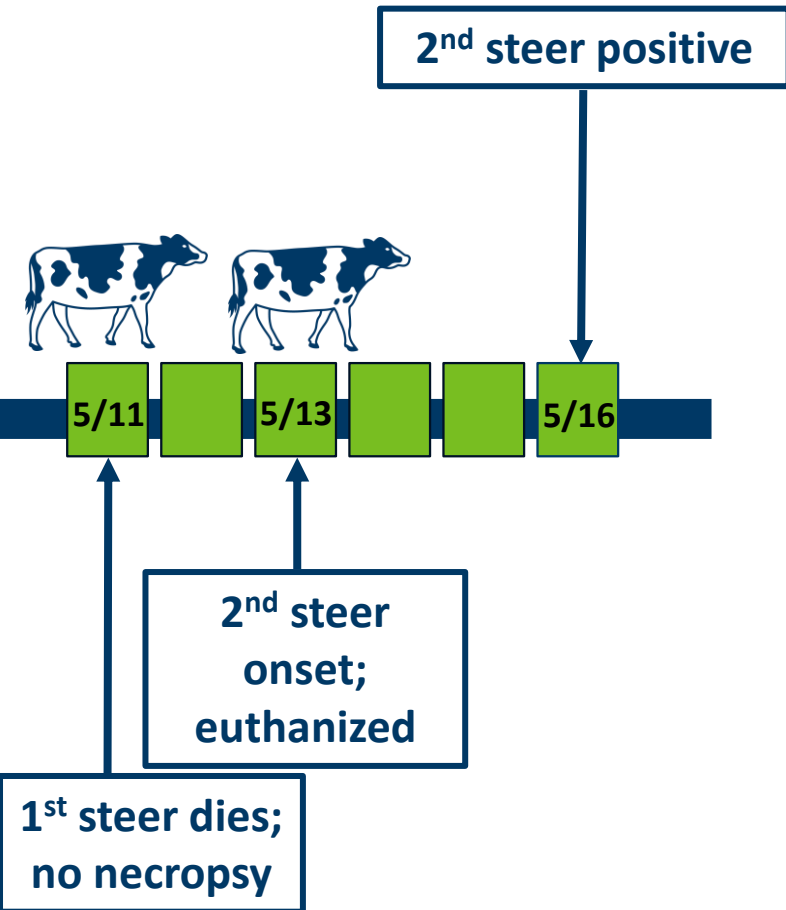


# The Investigation

# First Illness Occurs



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Illness Prompts Call to Herd Veterinarian



# Joint Investigation Launched – May 16

- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**
  - Interviewed potentially exposed people
  - Assessed need for rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- **Minnesota Board of Animal Health (BAH)**
  - Visited farm to assess animal exposures
  - Establish official quarantines



# Initial Investigation Results



- 33 steers placed on a 45-day quarantine
- Rabies vaccination recommended for steers; booster for dog
- 12 unvaccinated cats recommended for euthanasia
- Farmers reported smelling a skunk
- No family members recommended PEP

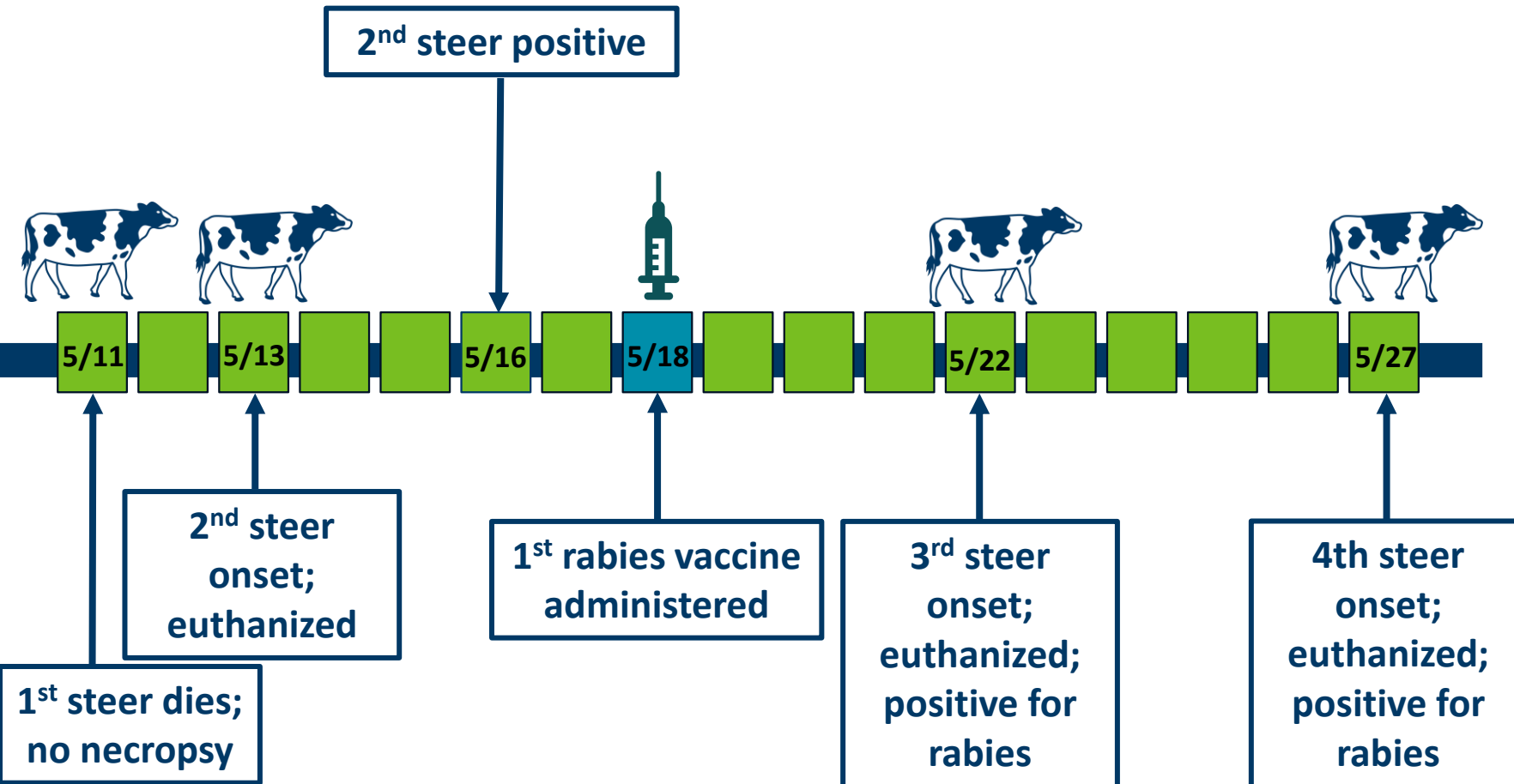
# Occupational Rabies Exposure

- Herd veterinarian's glove and skin punctured by skull fragment during removal of steer's brain
  - Was pre-exposure vaccinated
  - Recommended 2 booster shots





# 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Steers Become Rabid



# Additional Follow-Up Conducted

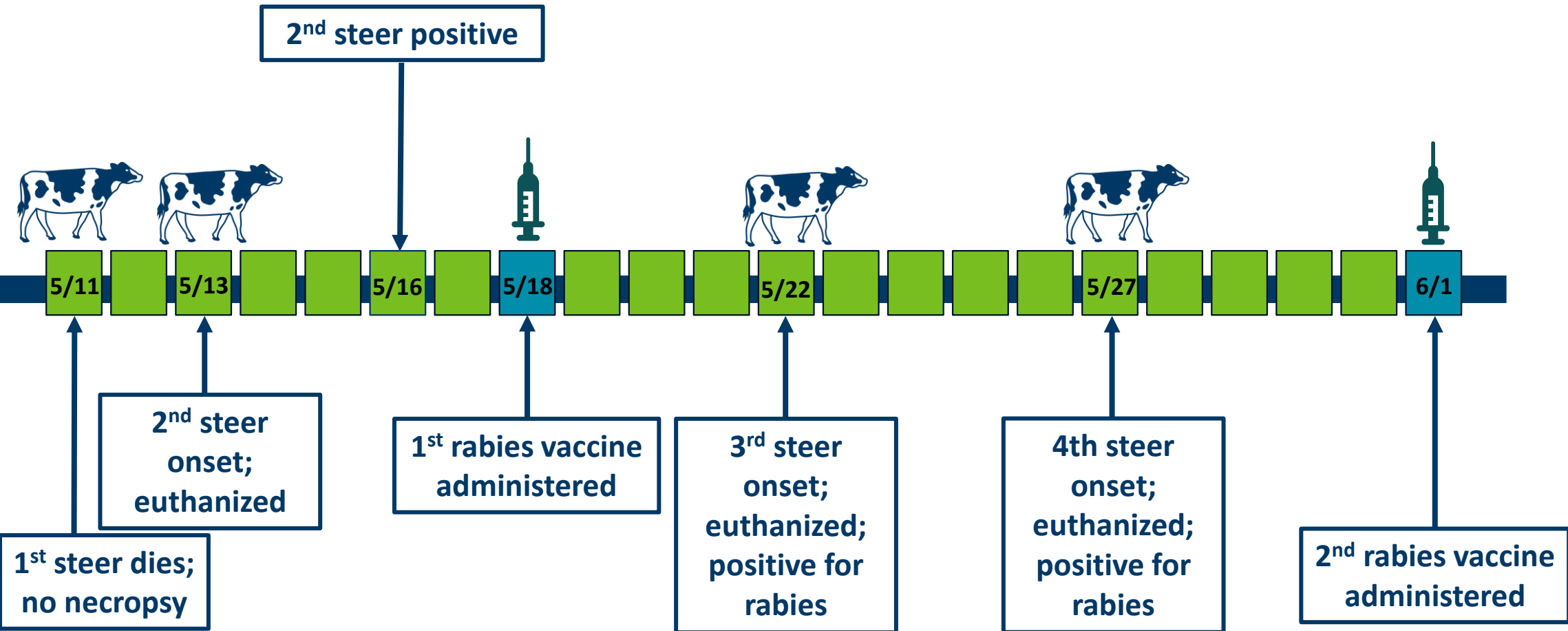
- **The Board conducted another site visit at the farm**
  - Quarantine extended from 45 to 120 days
  - Dog remained alive and well
  - 12 unvaccinated cats euthanized
- **Family members interviewed again to assess for new exposures**



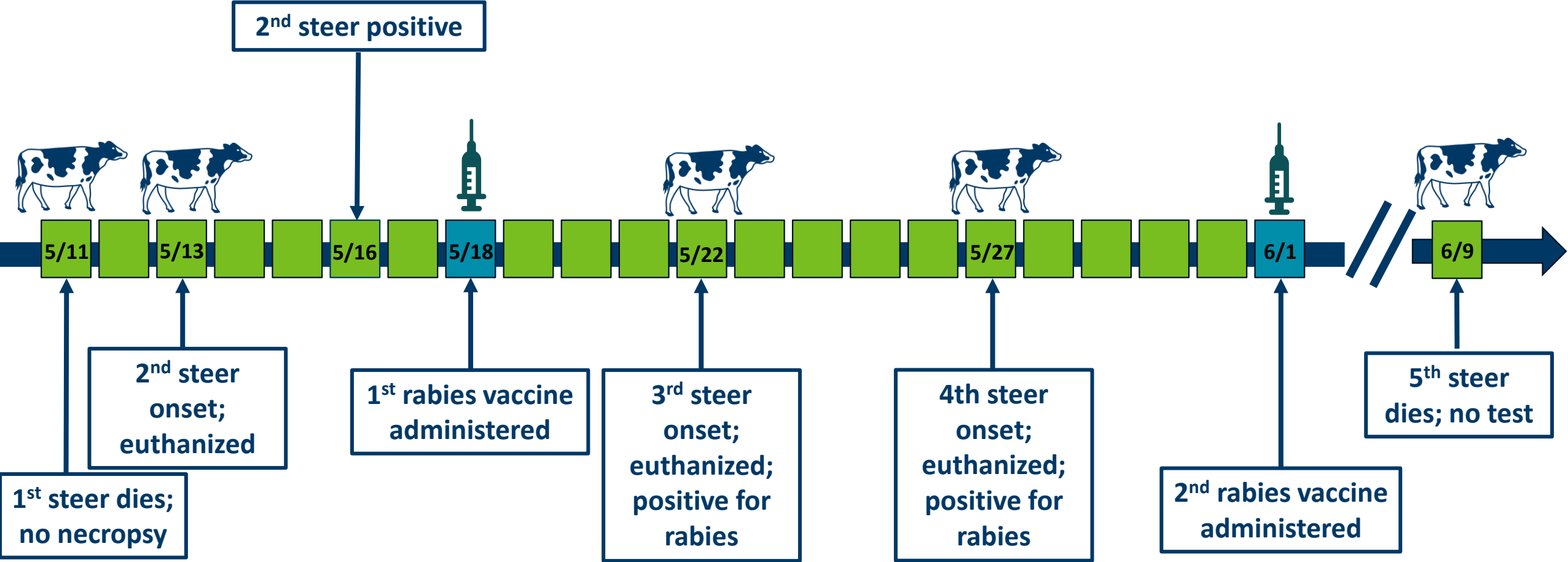
# Additional Occupational Rabies Exposures

- **Farm owners had extensive contact with infected steers**
- **Two young children had unmonitored access to steer pen**
- **4 people recommended to receive PEP (2 adults, 2 children)**
- **Veterinarian did not have any new exposures**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Rabies Vaccination Administered



# 5<sup>th</sup> Steer Dies; Not Submitted for Testing



# Investigation Conclusions

- **Temporal clustering of rabid animals previously reported but rare**
- **Dairy steers housed in small pens; multiple exposures possible**
- **Closely related viruses; suggest point source**
- **Cluster of 5 rabid steers over 4 weeks highly unusual**
  - **Steer-to-steer transmission cannot be ruled out**

# Self-Knowledge Check: Which of the following steps should be taken by farmers when their cattle appear ill?

- A. Call their veterinarian to schedule a farm visit**
- B. Attempt to treat the animal on their own by administering a variety of medicines**
- C. Wear appropriate PPE (gloves, eyes, nose, and mouth coverings) when handling ill animals**
- D. Restrict the number of people caring for the animals to limit potential exposures**
- E. Isolate the sick animals away from the healthy animals**
- F. A, C, D, E**

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- F. A, C, D, E

**Rationale:** We do not want farmers to treat ill animals on their own even though this often occurs. Treatment for cattle can involve significant contact with saliva increasing the risk of exposure.

# What about the cost to the farmers?





**Cost of  
routine  
vaccination:  
\$310**

**2024 median  
dairy farm  
income:  
\$126,897**

# Financial Cost of Rabid Livestock

- Reports have shown that for every rabid livestock, 4 or more people are often exposed to rabies and require PEP
- Rabies often presents in similar ways to other illnesses like choking, bloat, milk fever, etc.
  - Farmers often treat first and only call a veterinarian after treatments don't work
  - Appropriate PEP often not used, resulting in exposures

**Supplementary Table S2** – Economic Burden of Livestock Rabies and Associated Human Exposures, 2012 – 2021

		Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Horses & Donkeys	Camelids	Total	
	Average Cost	\$1,391	\$125	\$250	\$250	\$4,500	\$5,000		
	Highest Value	\$2,894	\$150	\$323	\$435	\$5,000	\$7,500		
	Lowest Value	\$563	\$100	\$123	\$71	\$4,000	\$2,500		
	Rabies Cases	624	6	28	65	216	8		<b>947</b>
Livestock Losses	Upper Case Detection Rate	66%	66%	66%	66%	66%	66%		
	Median Case Detection Rate	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%		
	Highest Cost	\$5,472,291	\$1,818	\$10,436	\$13,985	\$2,618,182	\$60,606		<b>\$9,042,652</b>
	Median Cost	\$1,315,127	\$1,136	\$10,606	\$24,621	\$1,472,727	\$60,606		<b>\$2,884,824</b>
	Unadjusted Cost	\$867,984	\$750	\$7,000	\$16,250	\$972,000	\$40,000		<b>\$1,903,984</b>
Human Exposure Treatment Costs	Upper Human Exposure per Case	4	4	4	4	4	4	<b>4</b>	
	Median Human Exposures per Case	2	2	2	2	2	2	<b>2</b>	
	Highest Cost	\$20,716,800	\$199,200	\$929,600	\$2,158,000	\$7,171,200	\$265,600	<b>\$31,440,400</b>	
	Median Cost	\$10,358,400	\$99,600	\$464,800	\$1,079,000	\$3,585,600	\$132,800	<b>\$15,720,200</b>	
	Unadjusted Cost	\$5,179,200	\$49,800	\$232,400	\$539,500	\$1,792,800	\$66,400	<b>\$7,860,100</b>	
Total Economic Cost of Livestock Rabies - High		\$26,189,091	\$201,018	\$940,036	\$2,171,985	\$9,789,382	\$326,206	<b>\$40,483,052</b>	
Total Economic Cost of Livestock Rabies - Median		\$11,673,527	\$100,736	\$475,406	\$1,103,621	\$5,058,327	\$193,406	<b>\$18,605,024</b>	
Total Economic Cost of Livestock Rabies - Low		\$6,047,184	\$50,550	\$239,400	\$555,750	\$2,764,800	\$106,400	<b>\$9,764,084</b>	

# Total Cost to the Farmers and Medical Sector: \$47,500

Item	Cost per item	Total cost
9 veterinary visits	\$172	\$1,550
65 rabies vaccines (steers, dog)	\$5	\$325
Rabies testing and shipping	\$100	\$400
Loss of 5 steers ready for market	\$2,500	\$12,500
Rabies PEP for family	\$8,000	\$32,000
Rabies booster for veterinarian	\$365	\$730

# **Rabid Livestock are Major Financial Burden**

**37% of annual farm  
income**

**Hard to make farm  
equipment loan payment**

**Sale of the herd significantly delayed**



# Mental Health Toll

- **Losses not covered by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) livestock indemnity program**
- **Losses not typically covered by farm insurance**
- **Farmers felt unsupported**
- **4 family members each getting 4 shots over 2 weeks; lots of trips**
- **Stress of farm equipment payment loan**
- **Worried about more animals getting sick**

# Final Thoughts

- **Rare occurrence but high consequence**
- **Consider herd vaccination in areas with increase rabies circulation, high value animals, and potential for human exposure**
- **Fully fund animal rabies surveillance**
- **Consider programs to help farmers with cost**

# Acknowledgements

## MDH and PHL

- Stacy Holzbauer
- Malia Ireland
- Katie Harry
- Gongping Liu
- Scott Cunningham
- Kirk Smith

## Board of Animal Health

- Bonnie Miller
- Brian Hoefs
- Erik Jopp
- Betsy Lempelius

## UMN School of Public Health

- Bruce Alexander

## UMN Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

- Hemant Naikare
- Albert Rovira

## CDC

- Ryan Wallace

## Others

- Thomas Czeck
- Farm owners

# Thank You!

**Carrie Klumb**

*Carrie.Klumb@state.mn.us*





# Rhode Island's Centralized Rabies Control Program: Reducing Unnecessary Post-Exposure Prophylaxis and Associated Healthcare Savings

April 30, 2026

Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call

Alexia Goodman, MPH and Katy Donovan, PhD

# Background



100,000 people  
receive PEP  
annually



Risk assessments  
determine who  
needs PEP



Health department  
consultation prevents  
unnecessary PEP

# Animal Bites Reporting and PEP Approval in RI



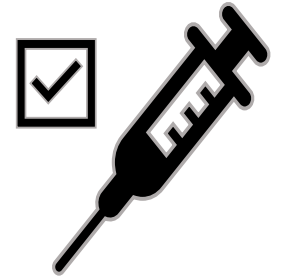
Patients  
Medical Providers  
Animal Control Officers  
Other Reporters



RI Department of Health



Risk Assessment



PEP Authorization

# Animal Bites Reporting and PEP Approval in RI



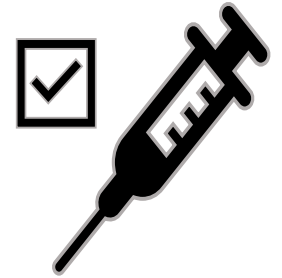
Patients  
Medical Providers  
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Other Reporters



RI Department of Health



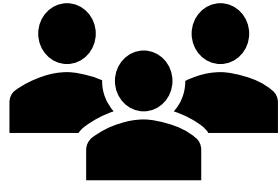
Risk Assessment



PEP Authorization



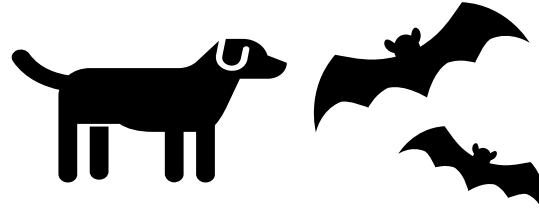
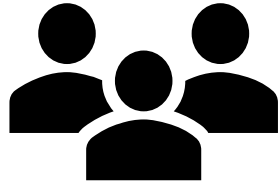
# Initial Report Intake



## **Patient Demographics**

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Phone Number
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Race & Ethnicity

# Initial Report Intake



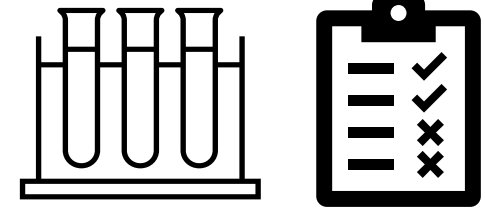
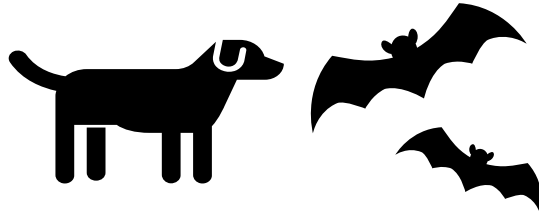
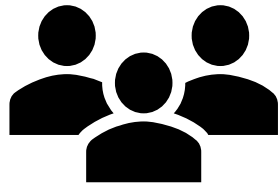
## Patient Demographics

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Phone Number
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Race & Ethnicity

## Incident Details

- ✓ Exposing Animal
- ✓ Wound Type
- ✓ Wound Location
- ✓ Status at Time of Report
- ✓ Description of Incident

# Initial Report Intake



## Patient Demographics

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ Phone Number
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Race & Ethnicity

## Incident Details

- ✓ Exposing Animal
- ✓ Wound Type
- ✓ Wound Location
- ✓ Status at Time of Report
- ✓ Description of Incident

## Investigation Outcome

- ✓ Ownership Status
- ✓ Vaccination Status
- ✓ Quarantine Location
- ✓ Rabies Testing Results

# Rabies Assessment Process



# Rabies Assessment Process



Healthcare  
Professionals

# Rabies Assessment Process

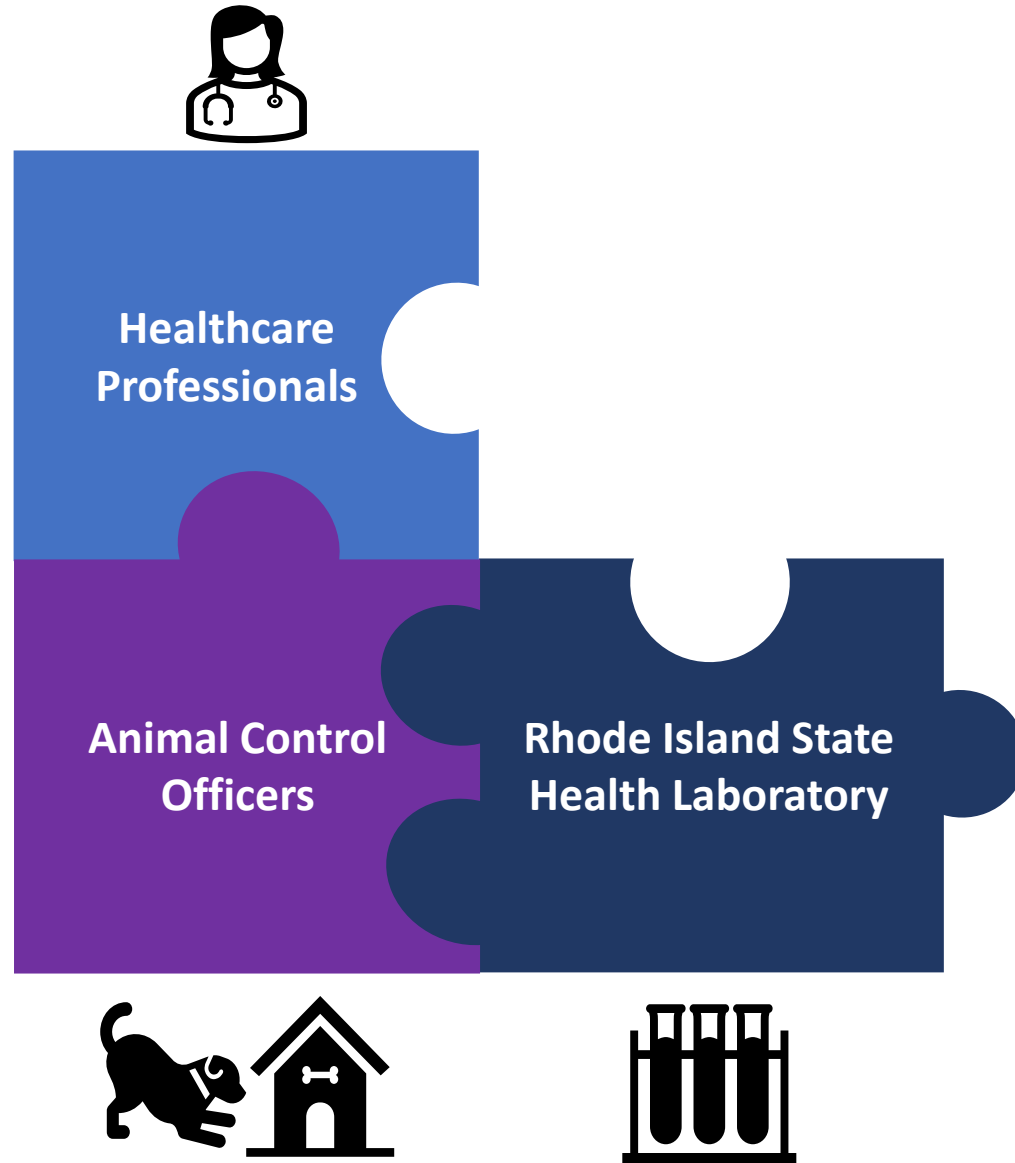


**Healthcare  
Professionals**

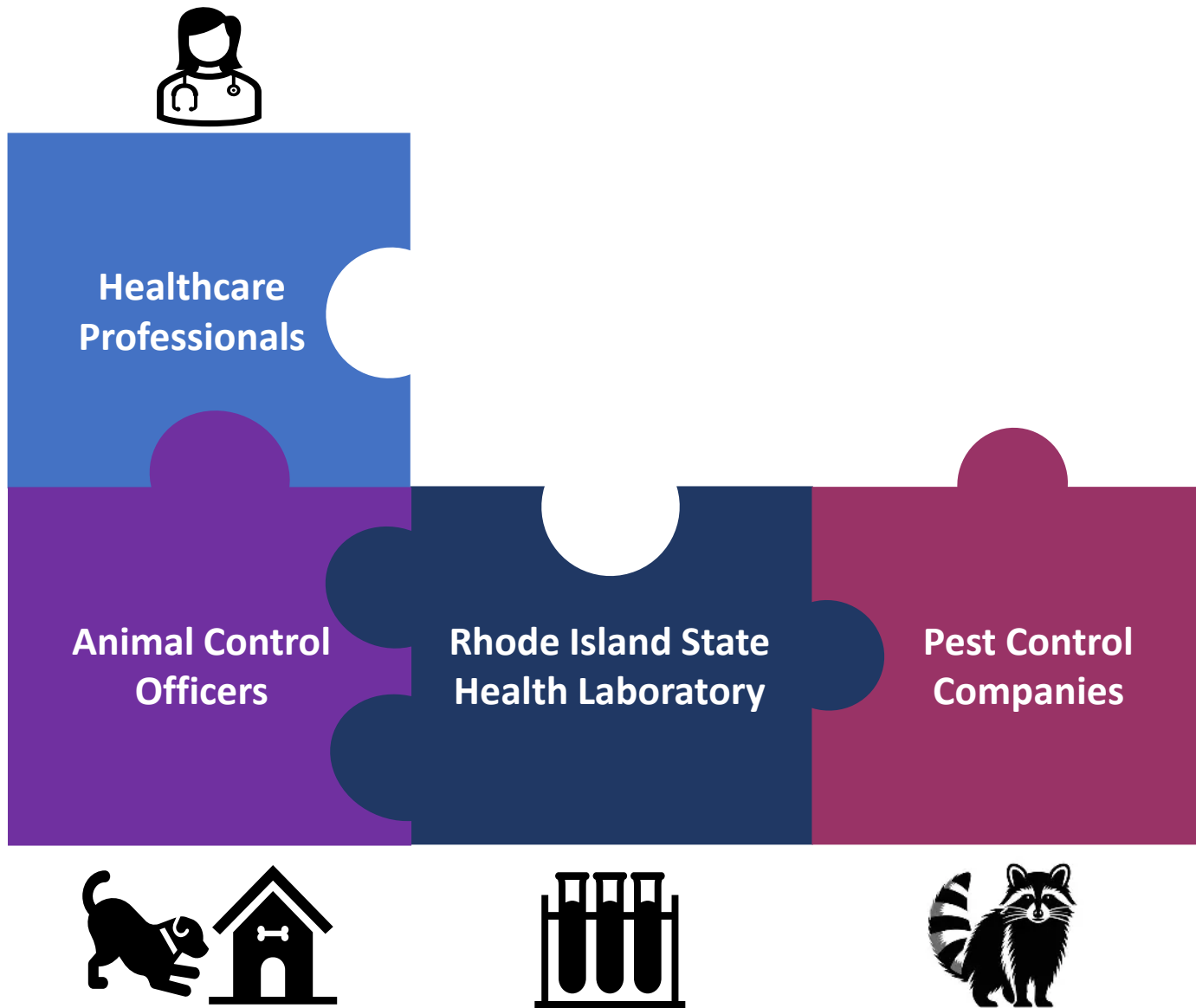
**Animal Control  
Officers**



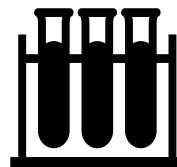
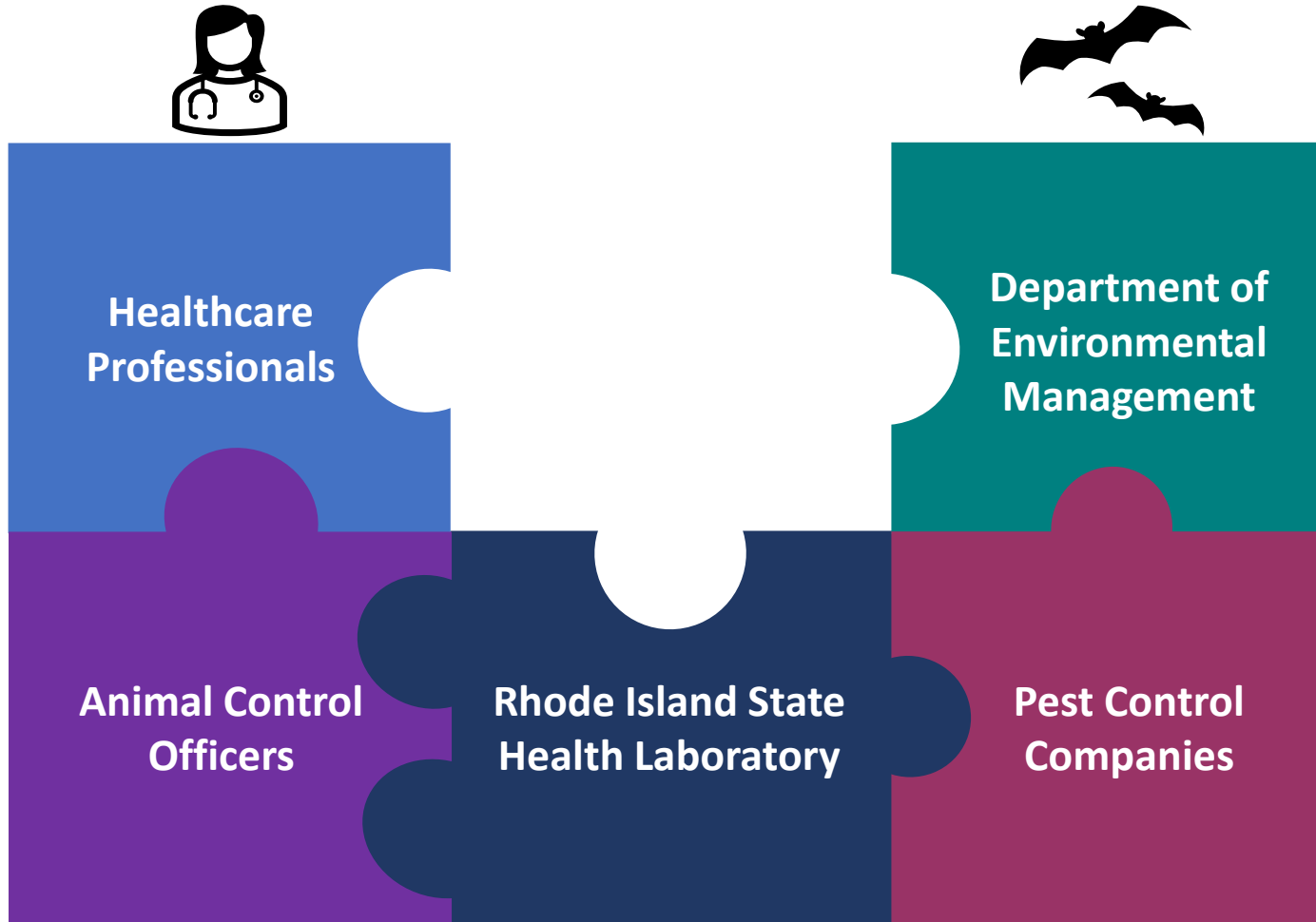
# Rabies Assessment Process



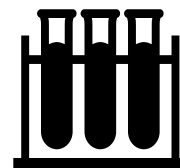
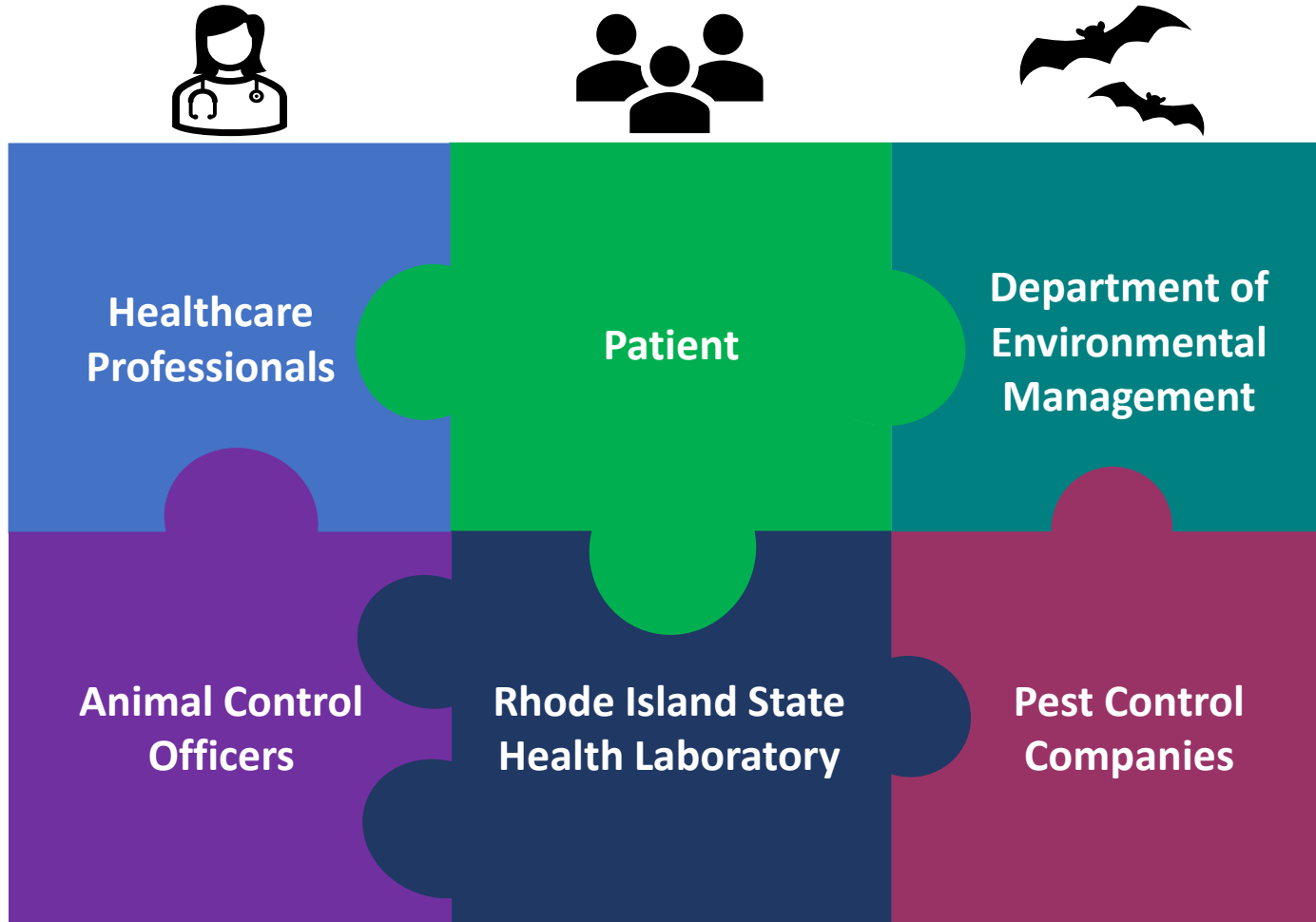
# Rabies Assessment Process



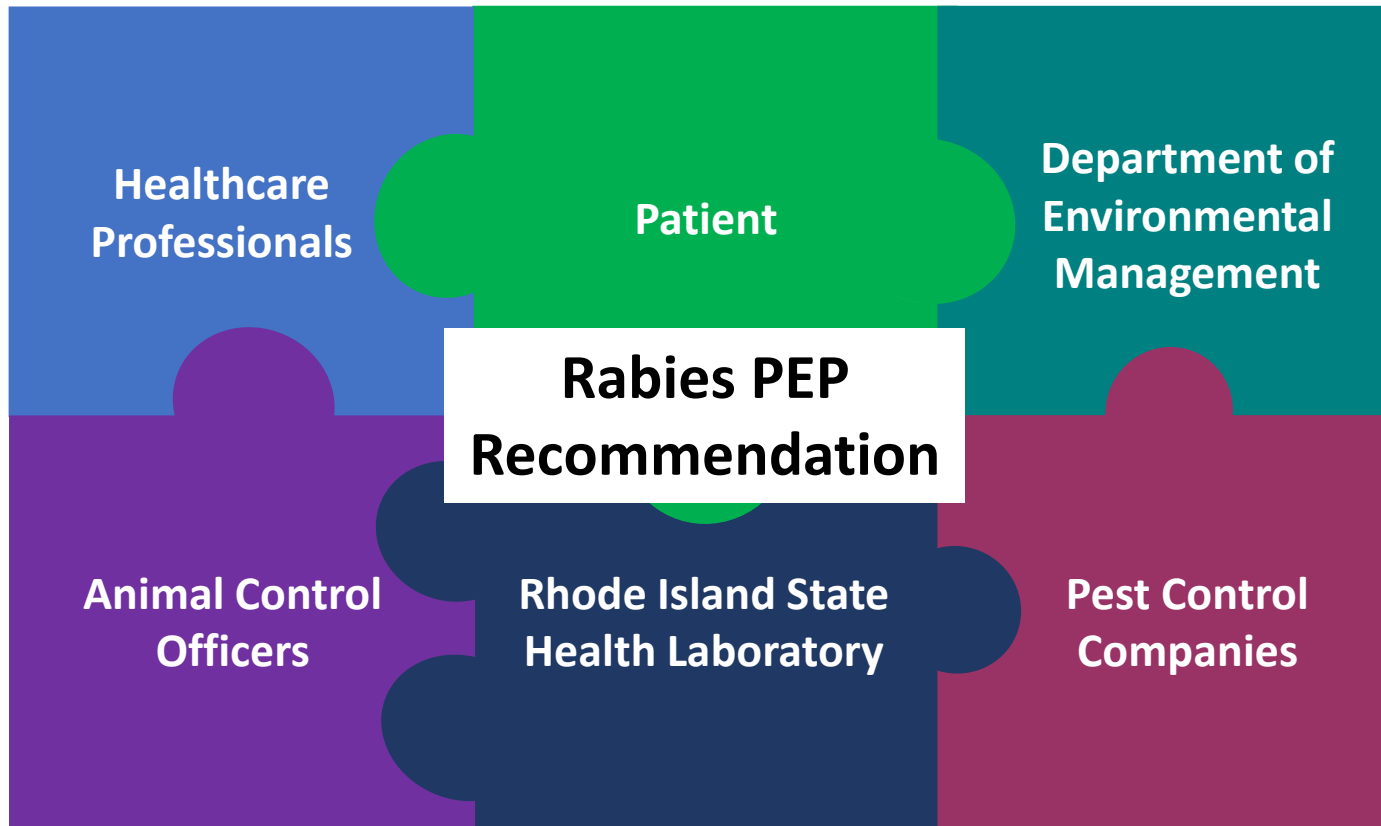
# Rabies Assessment Process



# Rabies Assessment Process



# Rabies Assessment Process



# REDCap PEP Authorization Process



- ✓ Patient information
- ✓ Vaccine recommendation
- ✓ Anticipated vaccine schedule

## Rabies Exposure Vaccination Outcome:

\* must provide value

- HRIG and 4 doses of vaccine
- HRIG and 5 doses of vaccine (patient immunocompromised). Titer required 2 weeks after final dose.
- No HRIG and 2 doses of vaccine (patient previously vaccinated with FDA-approved vaccine-HDCV or PCEC).
- Off-schedule vaccination - describe:
- Other vaccination recommendation - describe:
- Patient refused vaccine after risk counseling by nurse and/or MD
- Unable to reach patient. No response to letter.
- Patient treated out of state.
- Submitted for testing and resulted negative. No risk.

## Patient Information if Receiving Vaccine

Weight (lbs): 170	Weight (kgs): 77.1 <small>View equation</small>
Insurance: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <small>reset</small>	Name of Insurance Plan: BCBS Healthmate/Medicare
Immunosuppressed: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <small>reset</small>	Specify Condition: <input type="text"/>
Previously Vaccinated: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <small>reset</small>	If yes, when: <input type="text"/> <small>Today</small> M-D-Y
Egg allergy? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <small>reset</small>	

## Vaccine Release Information

Authorizing RIDOH Physician:	Dr. Bornschein
Dispensing Pharmacy:	Brown University Health ID Clinic
Place of 1st Dose:	Brown University Health ID Clinic
Date of Vaccine Release:	03-26-2026 <small>Today</small> M-D-Y
Vaccine Released By:	Steven LeBlanc

[Click here if completing series somewhere other than place of first dose.](#)

## Anticipated Vaccine Schedule

1st Dose (day 0): 03-27-2026 <small>Today</small> M-D-Y	2nd Dose (day 3): 03-30-2026 <small>Today</small> M-D-Y	3rd Dose (day 7): 03-27-2026 <small>Today</small> M-D-Y	4th Dose (day 14): 04-03-2026 <small>Today</small> M-D-Y	5th Dose (for immunocompromised individuals, day 28): <input type="text"/> <small>Today</small> M-D-Y
--	--	--	---	--

Last Possible Date for First Dose: 03-30-2026 Today M-D-Y

# REDCap PEP Authorization Process



- ✓ Patient information
- ✓ Vaccine recommendation
- ✓ Anticipated vaccine schedule

- ✓ Vaccine dose details
- ✓ Completed dose dates
- ✓ Vaccine schedule deviations
- ✓ Incomplete vaccine series

Number of Doses Needed  [View equation](#)

Rabies Immune Globulin		
RIG Needed?	Dose of RIG (20 units/kg)	Dose of RIG (mL)
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="text" value="2178"/> <a href="#">View equation</a>	<input type="text" value="7.26"/> <a href="#">View equation</a>

**Actual Vaccine Schedule**  
\*If dose was received elsewhere, leave date blank.  
\*\* Please fill in these dates when the patient actually receives each dose, not before. \*\*

1st Dose (day 0):	2nd Dose (day 3):	3rd Dose (day 7):	4th Dose (day 14):	5th Dose (for immunocompromised individuals, day 28):
<input type="text" value="03-25-2026"/> <a href="#">Today</a> <a href="#">M-D-Y</a>	<input type="text" value="03-27-2026"/> <a href="#">Today</a> <a href="#">M-D-Y</a>	<input type="text" value="03-31-2026"/> <a href="#">Today</a> <a href="#">M-D-Y</a>	<input type="text" value="04-07-2026"/> <a href="#">Today</a> <a href="#">M-D-Y</a>	<input type="text"/> <a href="#">Today</a> <a href="#">M-D-Y</a>

[Click here if completing series at a different facility. Closing out.](#)

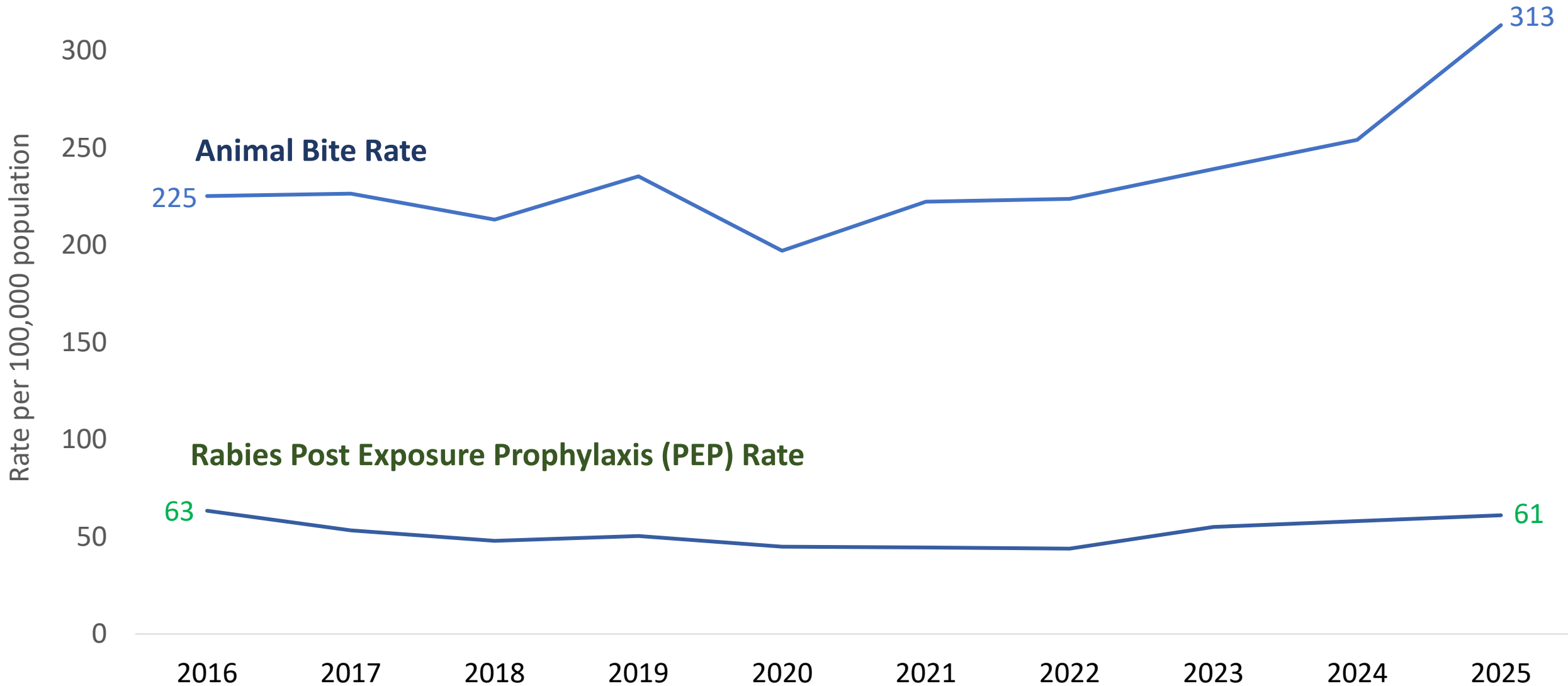
Modification to Vaccine Schedule?  Yes  No [reset](#)

**Series Not Completed**  
*BUH checks this box to notify RIDOH.*

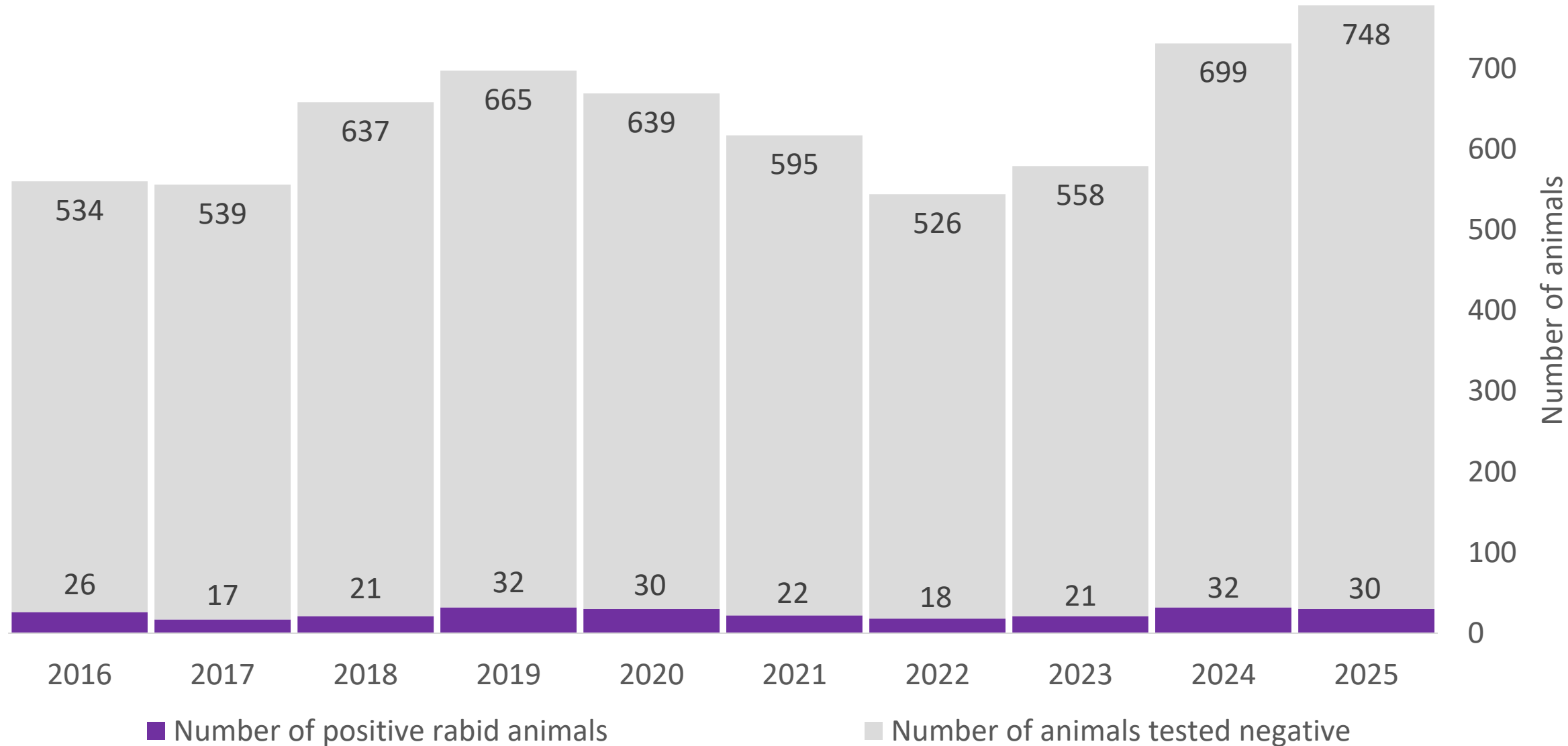
[Did not start OR complete series. Closing out.](#)

# Animal bite rates have increased since 2020

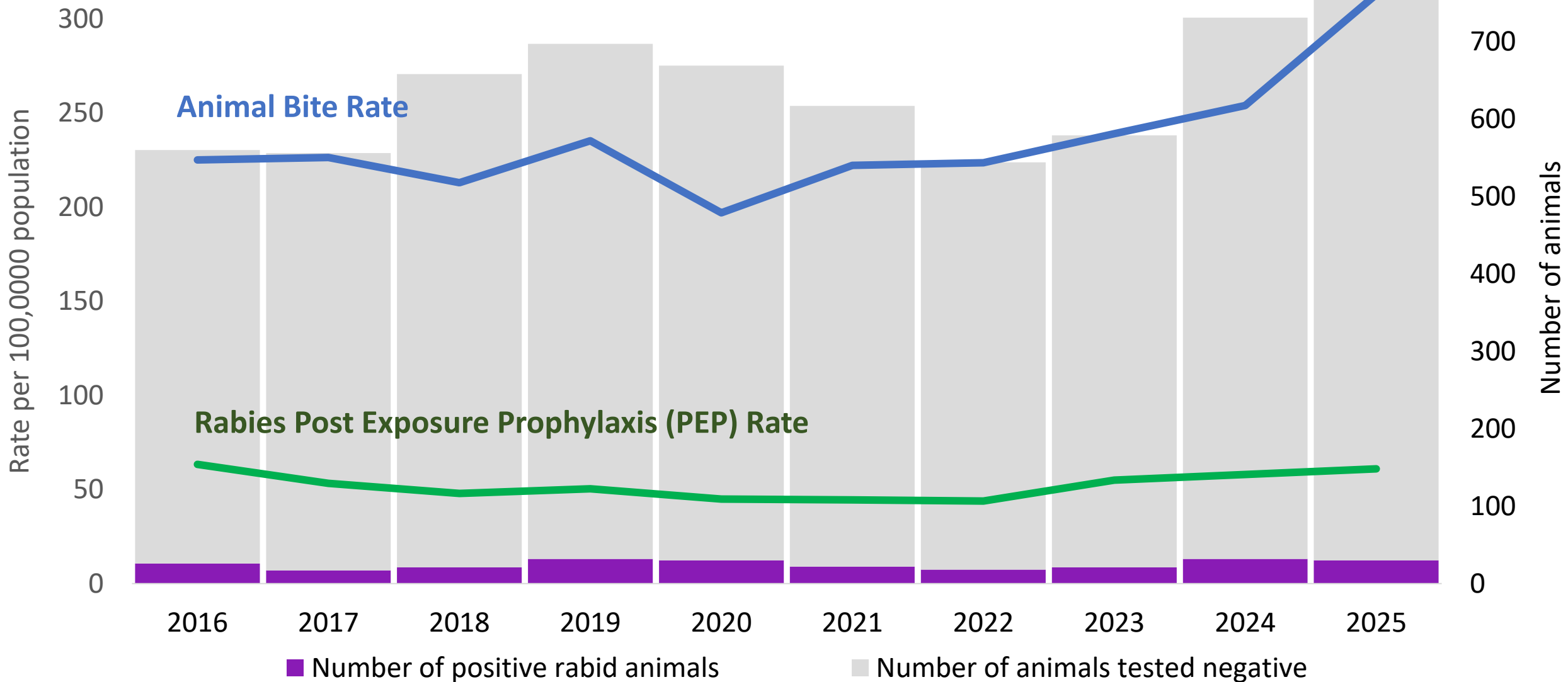
## PEP rates have remained steady.



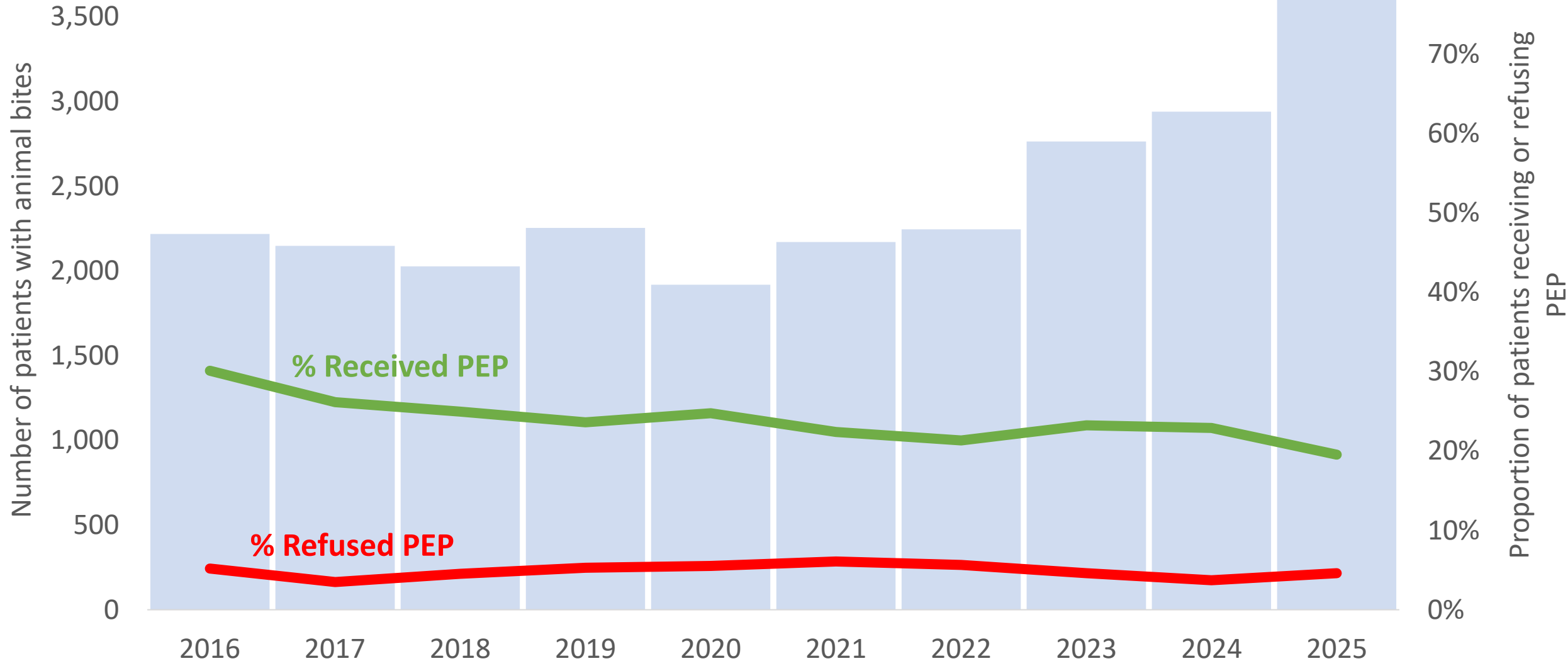
# Animal testing has increased recently but the number of **rabid animals** has remained stable.



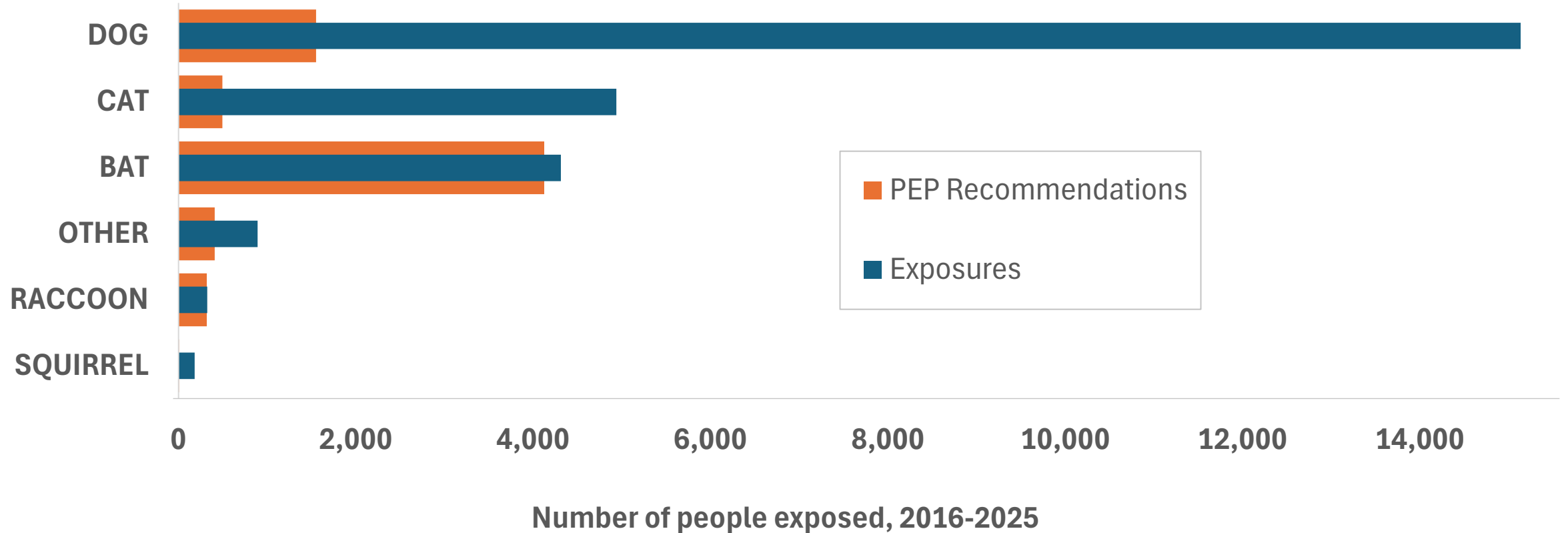
# Increased animal testing has likely contributed to a stable **PEP rate** in Rhode Island.



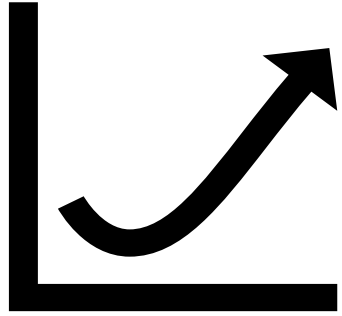
The proportion of people who were **recommended to receive PEP** decreased by more than 30%. **PEP refusals** have remained steady.



Dogs, cats, and bats are the most frequent **exposing animals**, but bat exposures are more likely to result in **PEP recommendations**.



# Cost Saving Analysis: Rhode Island, 2013 - 2022

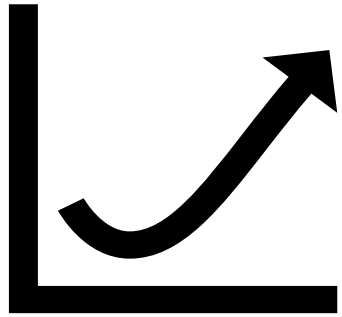


Animal bite and PEP  
data

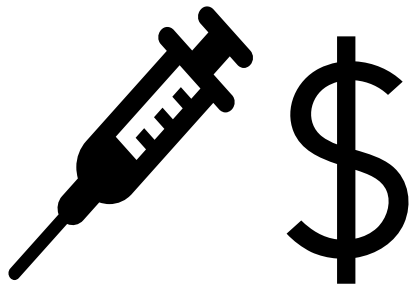


Estimated yearly  
PEP costs

# Cost Saving Analysis: Rhode Island, 2013 - 2022



Animal bite and PEP trends



Estimated yearly PEP costs



PEP prevented



Healthcare savings

# Estimated Savings as a Result of Preventing Unnecessary PEP Administration, **2013-2022**



30,059 animal exposures



PEP authorized for 7,444 people (25%)



22,615 people did NOT get PEP

---

# Estimated Savings as a Result of Preventing Unnecessary PEP Administration, **2013-2022**



30,059 animal exposures



PEP authorized for 7,444 people (25%)



22,615 people did NOT get PEP

---

## 25%

Estimated would have gotten PEP without RIDOH risk assessment, counseling, and/or lab testing

# Estimated Savings as a Result of Preventing Unnecessary PEP Administration, **2013-2022**



30,059 animal exposures



PEP authorized for 7,444 people (25%)



22,615 people did NOT get PEP

---

**25%**

Estimated would have gotten PEP without RIDOH risk assessment, counseling, and/or lab testing



**\$11,977**

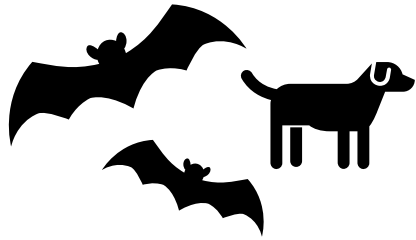
Average PEP cost



**\$68 million**

in savings

# Estimated Savings as a Result of Preventing Unnecessary PEP Administration, **2022**



2,988 animal exposures



PEP authorized for 652 people (22%)

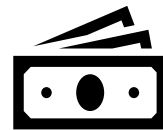


2,336 people did NOT get PEP

---

**25%**

Estimated would have gotten PEP without RIDOH risk assessment, counseling, and/or lab testing



**\$13,697**

Average PEP cost

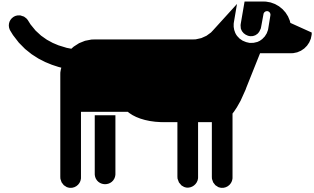


**\$8 million**

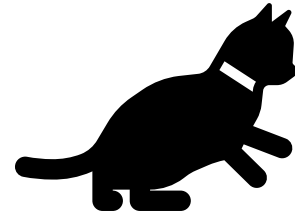
in savings for one year

# Cost Savings by Animal Type and Program Intervention

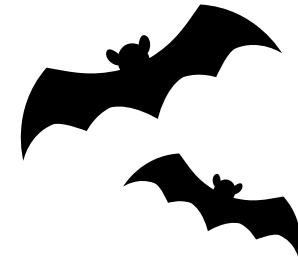
## 2013-2022



\$33  
million



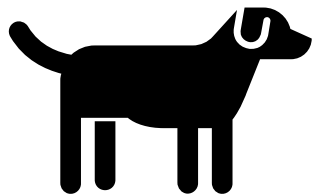
\$15  
million



\$15  
million

# Cost Savings by Animal Type and Program Intervention

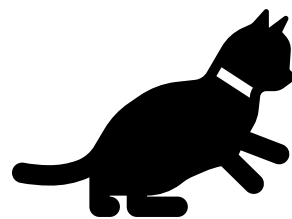
## 2013-2022



\$33  
million



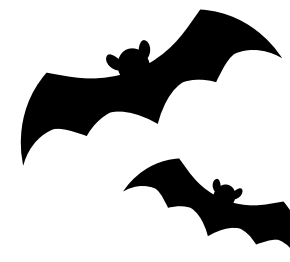
Risk Assessment &  
Counseling



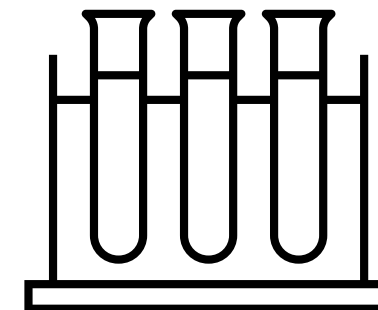
\$15  
million



Risk Assessment &  
Counseling



\$15  
million



Testing

# Additional Impacts



# Additional Impacts



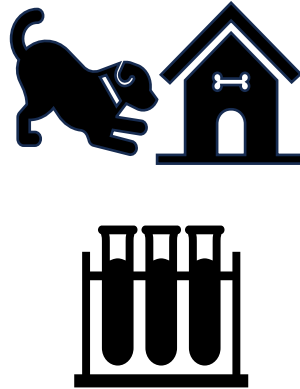
# Additional Impacts



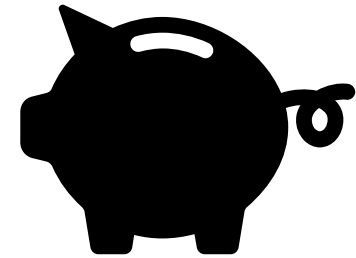
# Conclusion



Health department-  
led risk assessment  
and evaluation



Animal quarantine  
and testing



Cost and time  
savings

# Self Knowledge Check:

What has the biggest impact on ensuring PEP is given appropriately following an animal bite?

- A. Patient age**
- B. Time of day when the patient presents for care**
- C. Provider consultation with the local health department**
- D. Patient has health insurance coverage**

# Self Knowledge Check:

What has the biggest impact on ensuring PEP is given appropriately following an animal bite?

- ~~A. Patient age~~
- ~~B. Time of day when the patient presents for care~~
- C. Provider consultation with the local health department**
- ~~D. Patient has health insurance coverage~~

**Rationale:** Rabies PEP guidance is nuanced and requires consideration of many factors including local rabies epidemiology, circumstances of the exposure, and availability of the animal for quarantine or testing. Two previous studies have shown consultation with the local health department improves adherence to PEP guidelines.



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# References



1. Risk assessment icon obtained from the Noun Project, Volunteer by Mrfa Studio from [Volunteer Icon - Free PNG & SVG 1259612 - Noun Project](#)
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. 2014 ASP drug pricing files. <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Part-B-Drugs/McrPartBDrugAvgSalesPrice/2014ASPFiles.html>. Published 2014. Accessed January 2014.
3. Christian KA, Blanton JD, Auslander M, Rupprecht CE. Epidemiology of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis—United States of America, 2006-2008. *Vaccine*. 2009;27(51):7156–7161.
4. Krebs JW, Long-Marin SC, Childs JE. Causes, costs, and estimates of rabies postexposure prophylaxis treatments in the United States. *J Public Health Manag Pract*. 1998;4(5):56–62.
5. Manning SE, Rupprecht CE, Fishbein D, et al. Human rabies prevention—United States, 2008: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 2008;57(RR-3):1–28.
6. Moran GJ, Talan DA, Mower W, et al. Appropriateness of Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis Treatment for Animal Exposures. *JAMA*. 2000;284(8):1001–1007. doi:10.1001/jama.284.8.1001
7. Steinberg HD, Bemis K, Frias MM, et al. Inappropriate Administration of Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis, Cook County, Illinois, USA. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2020;26(10):2515-2517. doi:10.3201/eid2610.200232.
8. Whitehouse ER, Person MK, Brown CM, Slavinski S, Rao AK, Blanton JD. Evaluating Surveillance for and Estimating Administration of Rabies Postexposure Prophylaxis in the United States, 2012-2018. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*. 2021 Oct 25;15(10):e0009878. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0009878. PMID: 34695115; PMCID: PMC8568135.

**For more information, contact [rabies@cdc.gov](mailto:rabies@cdc.gov).**

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 <https://www.cdc.gov/>  
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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



# Closing Slide / Disclaimer – CDC/ATSDR

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1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) [atsdr.cdc.gov](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)  
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The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.



# To Ask a Question

- Using the MS Teams Platform
  - The ability to ask questions during the live webinar is limited to the first 1,000 attendees who join the webinar.
  - Questions may be submitted after the live session by emailing [coca@cdc.gov](mailto:coca@cdc.gov).
- If you are a patient, please refer your question to your healthcare provider.
- If you are a member of the media, please direct your questions to CDC Media Relations at 404-639-3286 or email [media@cdc.gov](mailto:media@cdc.gov).

# TRAIN

- CDC has fully transitioned from the Training and Continuing Education Online (TCEO) system that provides access to CDC educational activities for continuing education to CDC TRAIN. If you do not already have a TRAIN account, please [create one](#) at <https://www.train.org/cdctrain>.
- All new activities that offer continuing education (CE) from CDC will only be listed in CDC TRAIN. CDC TRAIN is a gateway into the [TRAIN](#) Learning Network, the most comprehensive catalog of shared public health training opportunities. This transition will allow you to access non-credit and for-credit educational activities, and track your learning, including CE in one place. Many CDC-accredited activities are already listed in CDC TRAIN. The move to one system improves efficiency and makes it easier for learners, CDC staff, and partners to offer and earn CE in one place.

# Continuing Education

- All continuing education for COCA Calls is issued online through CDC TRAIN (<https://www.train.org/cdctrain>).
- To receive continuing education (CE) for **WC5003-043026**—[Rabies is Still Here: Epidemiology, Outbreaks, and Costs of Prevention in the United States](#), please visit [CDC TRAIN](#) and search for the course in the Course Catalog using **WC5003-043026**. Follow the steps below by **June 1, 2026**. The registration code is **COCA043026**.
- To receive continuing education (CE) for **WD5003-043026**—[Rabies is Still Here: Epidemiology, Outbreaks, and Costs of Prevention in the United States](#), please visit [CDC TRAIN](#) and search for the course in the Course Catalog using **WD5003-011526**. Follow the steps below between **June 2, 2026**, and **June 2, 2028**.

# Today's COCA Call will be Available to View On-Demand

- **When:** In approximately one week
- **What:** Closed-captioned video and transcript
- **Where:** On the COCA Call webpage: [Rabies is Still Here: Epidemiology, Outbreaks, and Costs of Prevention in the United States | COCA | CDC](#)

# Additional Resources

- Continue to visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coca/hcp/trainings/index.html> to get more details about upcoming COCA Calls.
- Subscribe to receive notifications about upcoming COCA calls and other COCA products and services at <https://www.cdc.gov/coca/hcp/trainings/index.html>.

# Thank you for joining us today!

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TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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