



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

Rabies Educational Outreach Texas

USAHA Rabies Subcommittee 2019

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State Public Health Veterinarian

Public Health Structure for Rabies Education

- Texas Department of State Health Services
 - Central Office – Zoonosis Control Branch
 - Eighteen positions
 - Regional Offices - Eight Administrative Public Health Regions
 - Twenty-nine Zoonosis Control positions
- Local Health Departments (LHD)
 - 254 Counties
 - Most have no county-level LHD
 - DSHS Regional Offices serve as LHD where there is no county LHD



Texas Department of State
Health Services

Modes of Communication

- Presentations
- Internet
- Newsletters
- Email
- Media
- Maps
- Brochures / Handouts
- Special Projects

Presentations

- Medical and Veterinary Medical Staff and Students
- Schools at All Levels
- Local Health Departments
- Law Enforcement
- Animal Control Officers
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Health Fairs
- Conferences
 - James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Man



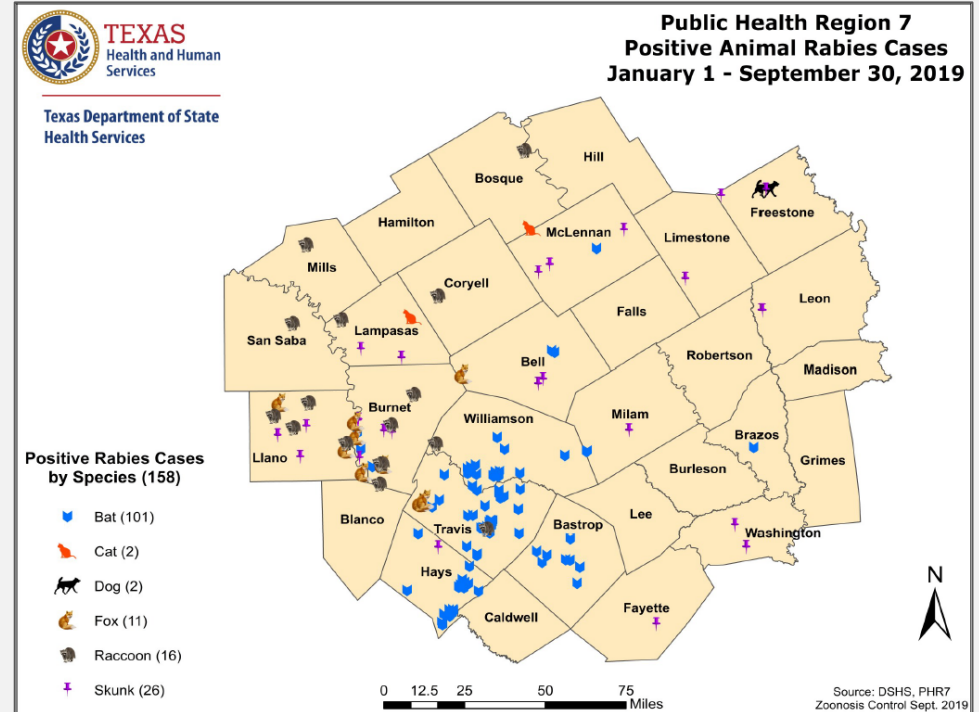
Internet

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/rabies/>

- Cases and Statistics
- Tissue Collection slide series
- General disease description
- History of Rabies in Texas
- Link to Rabies Prevention in Texas
 - 30 page document covering topics on both human and animal rabies
- Maps
- Vaccine, laws and guidance
 - Oral Rabies Vaccination Program
- Testing

Newsletters

- Most DSHS Regional Zoonosis Control Programs create and distribute newsletters to Regional stakeholders
- Newsletters available on web and/or emailed to groups
 - Include seasonal themes
 - Regional summary data for zoonotic and vector-borne diseases
 - Emphasize key messages on rabies avoidance, specimen submission, contact information, post-exposure prophylaxis, etc.



Email – Targeted and Mass Outreach

- Local Health Departments
- Regional / School Nurses
- County Extension Service Agents
- Health Care Providers
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Veterinarians
- Animal Control Officers
- USDA
- Epidemiologists
- Texas Animal Health Commission
- Wildlife Damage Management

Media

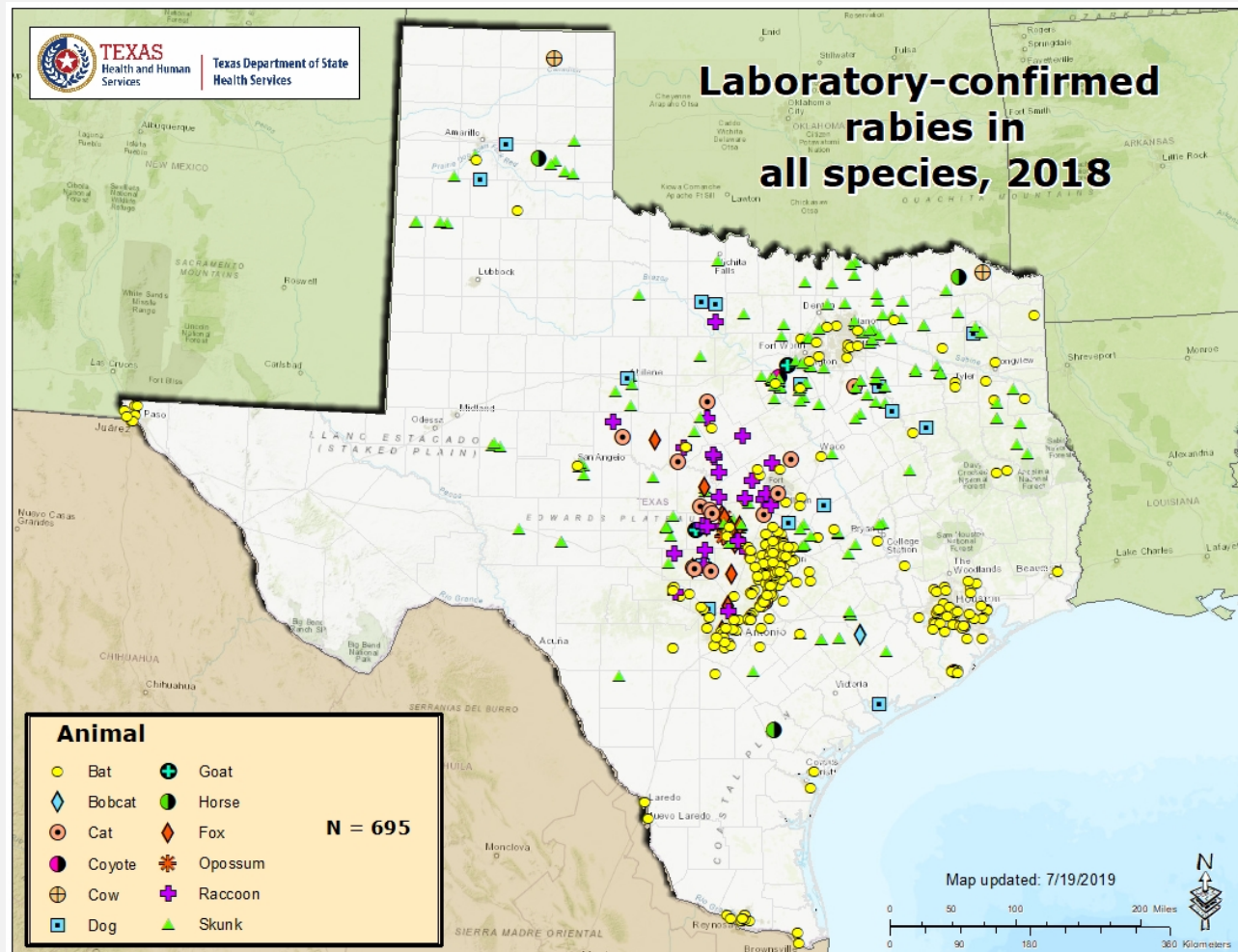
News Releases

- More commonly releases are by local jurisdictions in response to rabies cases or situations
 - DSHS Regional ZC Programs are often consulted
- State-level releases are not routine
 - Vaccine shortage
 - Broad outreach to locate persons who may have been exposed to rabies, e.g. rabid bat collected at a popular discount mall
 - Distribution area for the release is scenario-dependent

Social Media

- Twitter, Facebook, YouTube

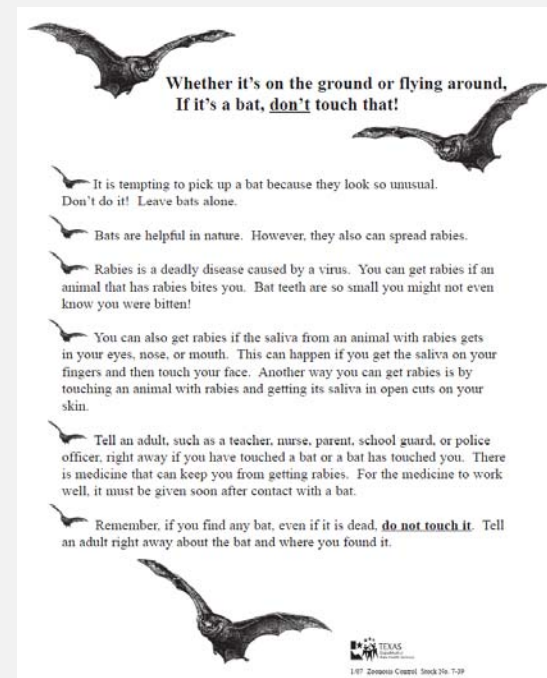
MAPS



Texas Department of State Health Services

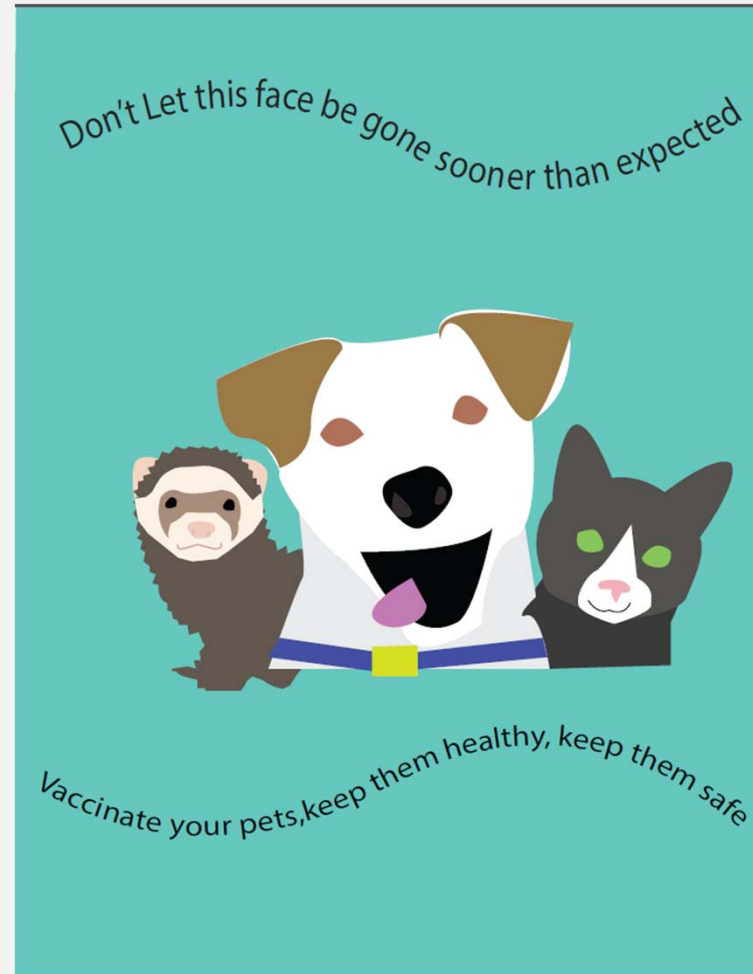
Brochures and Handouts

- Provided as requested to schools or other agencies
- Passed out at conferences, etc.
- Handouts available on web for download



Special Projects

- **Rabies Awareness and Prevention Poster Contest**
 - Contest open to all Texas residents in K-12th Grade
 - Prizes are provided by the Zach Jones Memorial Fund



Special Projects



Mission

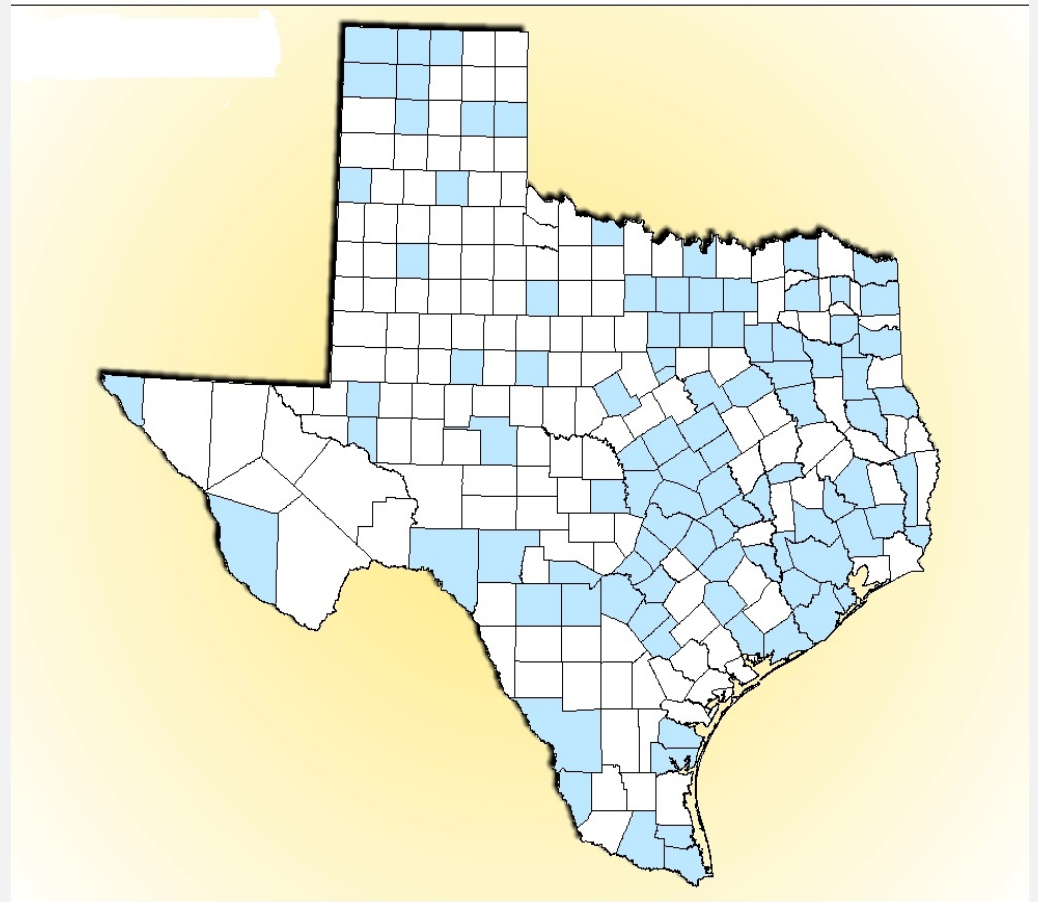
The Zach Jones Memorial Fund strives to raise funds in order to assist with educational awareness, early detection, and ultimately the cure for rabies.

Zach Jones, of Humble TX, died of bat rabies May 2006.



Special Projects

- Between 2010 and 2019 inclusive, 8,480 posters were submitted
- Counties with participating schools shown in blue on the map



Thank you!

Rabies Educational Outreach - Texas

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