



There are at least 4 types
of bears indigenous to
this country.

They are from least
dangerous to most
dangerous:

Teddy Bear



Black Bear (*U. americanus*)



Brown or Grizzly Bear (U. Arctos)



Chicago Bear (D. Butkus)



Two types exist in New Mexico Teddy and Black



Defensive vs. Predatory Behavior



Defensive Behavior

- Defending cubs
- Feel too crowded
- Food source
- Surprise encounter – most common
- Bear are VERY quick to respond and may catch you off guard



Predatory Behavior

- Too comfortable around humans
- Nonchalant attitude when approached
- Circling or insistent approach
- Predatory behavior more common in black bears (but rare, nonetheless)





The Law

Universal Citation: [NM Stat § 77-1-6 \(1996 through 1st Sess 50th Legis\)](#)

77-1-6. Notice to health officer of animal bite; confinement; animal contact with rabid animals; animal rabies quarantine; procedure following death from rabies.

The health and environment department [department of health] shall prescribe regulations for the reporting of animal bites, confinement and disposition of rabies-suspect animals, rabies quarantine and the disposition of dogs and cats exposed to rabies, in the interest of public health and safety.



7.4.2.9 C. Any skunk, bat, raccoon, coyote, bobcat or other wild animal not born or reared in captivity, with the exception of rodents (order rodentia) or rabbits (order lagomorpha), which bites or otherwise exposes a person to rabies shall be destroyed immediately and the head sent to the laboratory for testing. Rabbits and rodents do not normally transmit rabies.

TITLE 7 HEALTH
CHAPTER 4 DISEASE CONTROL (EPIDEMIOLOGY)
PART 2 ANIMAL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

7.4.2.1 **ISSUING AGENCY:** New Mexico Department of Health.
[8/27/79; 10/31/96; 7.4.2.1 NMAC - Rn, 7 NMAC 4.2.1, 5/30/2003]



In 2016 The National Association of State Public Health says
“**Management of animals other than dogs, cats, and ferrets depends on the species, the circumstances of the exposure, the epidemiology of rabies in the area, the exposing animal’s history and current health status, and the animal’s potential for exposure to rabies.** The shedding period for rabies virus is undetermined for most species. Previous vaccination of these animals might not preclude the necessity for euthanasia and testing. “

Public Veterinary Medicine: Public Health
Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2016
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control
Committee

An indication that bears might be comparatively resistant to infection by rabies virus was obtained in 1963, when a black bear inoculated with 1,000 MLD50 of the virus showed no signs of disease over a 5-month period, while a dog and 3 arctic foxes that had received 100 MLD50 of the same inoculum died of rabies in 67 to 106 days. Results obtained with bears in the present study are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

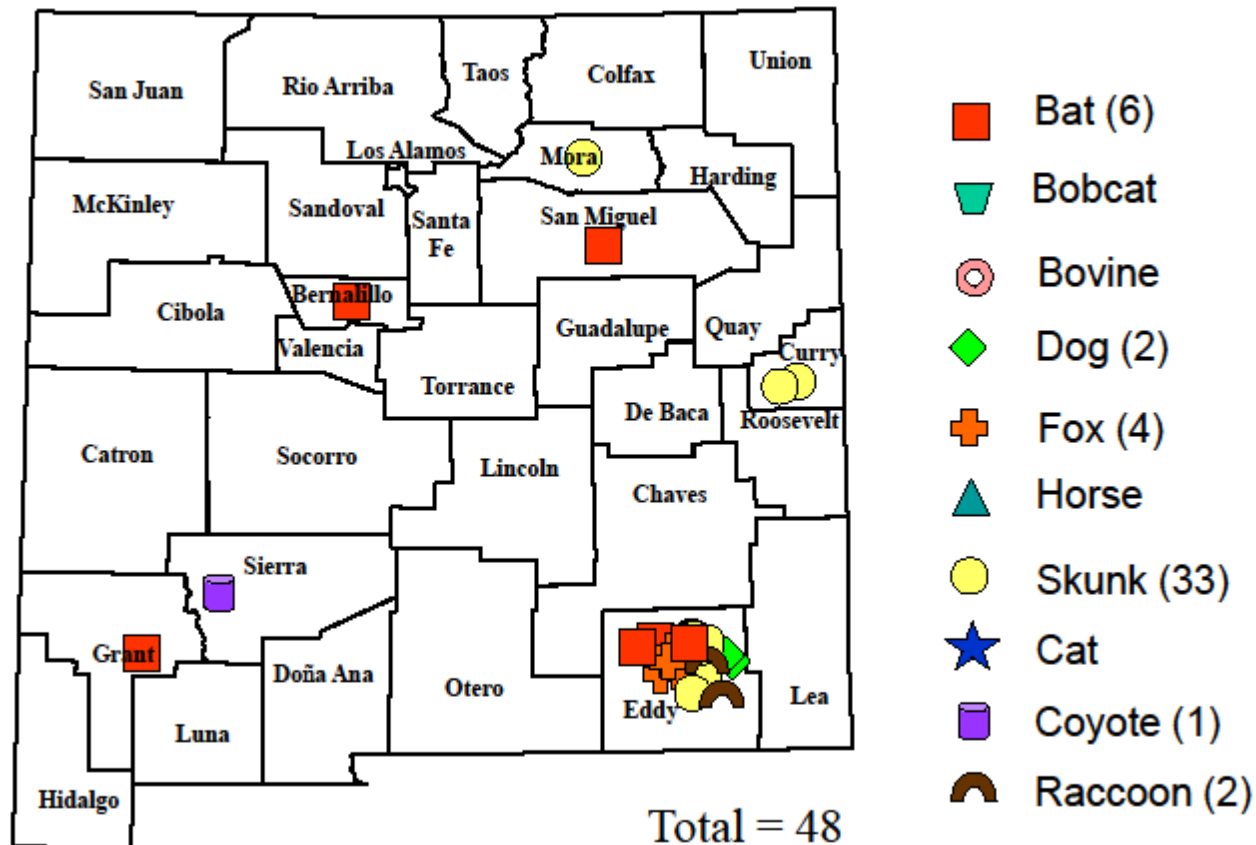
Summary of results obtained in bears experimentally inoculated with rabies virus

Species	Inoculum (MLD ₅₀)	Post - inoculation			Approx. age at death (months)	Titre (Salivary gland)
		Onset of signs (day)	Death (day)	Survivors observed (months)		
<i>U. americanus</i>	500	-	-	10.5	19	-
	1 000	-	-	11.0	19	-
	1 000	-	-	5.0	17	-
	1 000	65	70	-	13	10 ^{-1.4}
	5 000	-	-	6.5	15	-
	5 000	-	-	7.0	13	-
	5 000	-	-	8.0	17	-
	5 000	19	20	-	8	Neg.
	10 000	-	81	-	8	Neg.*
20 000	27	30	-	31	10 ^{-1.2}	
<i>U. arctos</i>	5 000	22	25	-	14	Neg.
	10 000	16	18	-	8	Neg.
	10 000	16	18	-	14	Neg.

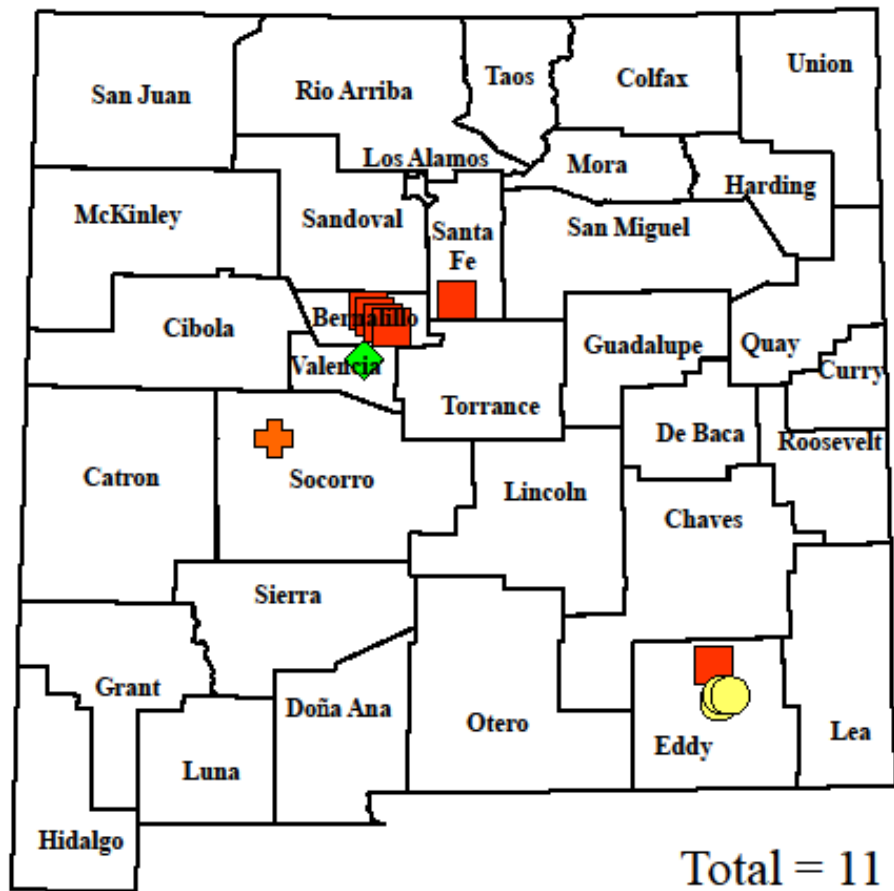
* Non-specific death.

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Animal Rabies by County, New Mexico, 2012



Animal Rabies by County, New Mexico, 2013

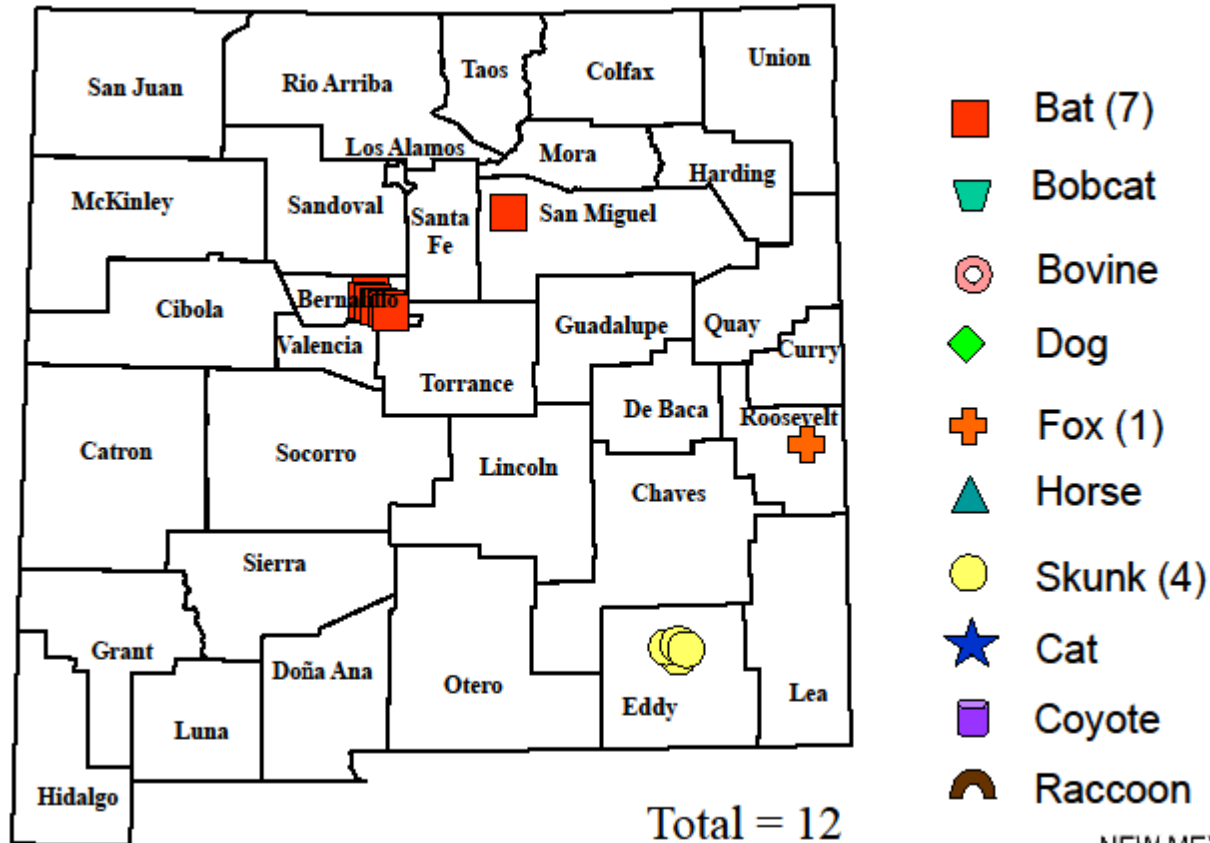


- Bat (6)
- ▼ Bobcat
- Bovine
- ◆ Dog (1)
- + Fox (1)
- ▲ Horse
- Skunk (3)
- ★ Cat
- Coyote
- ⤿ Raccoon

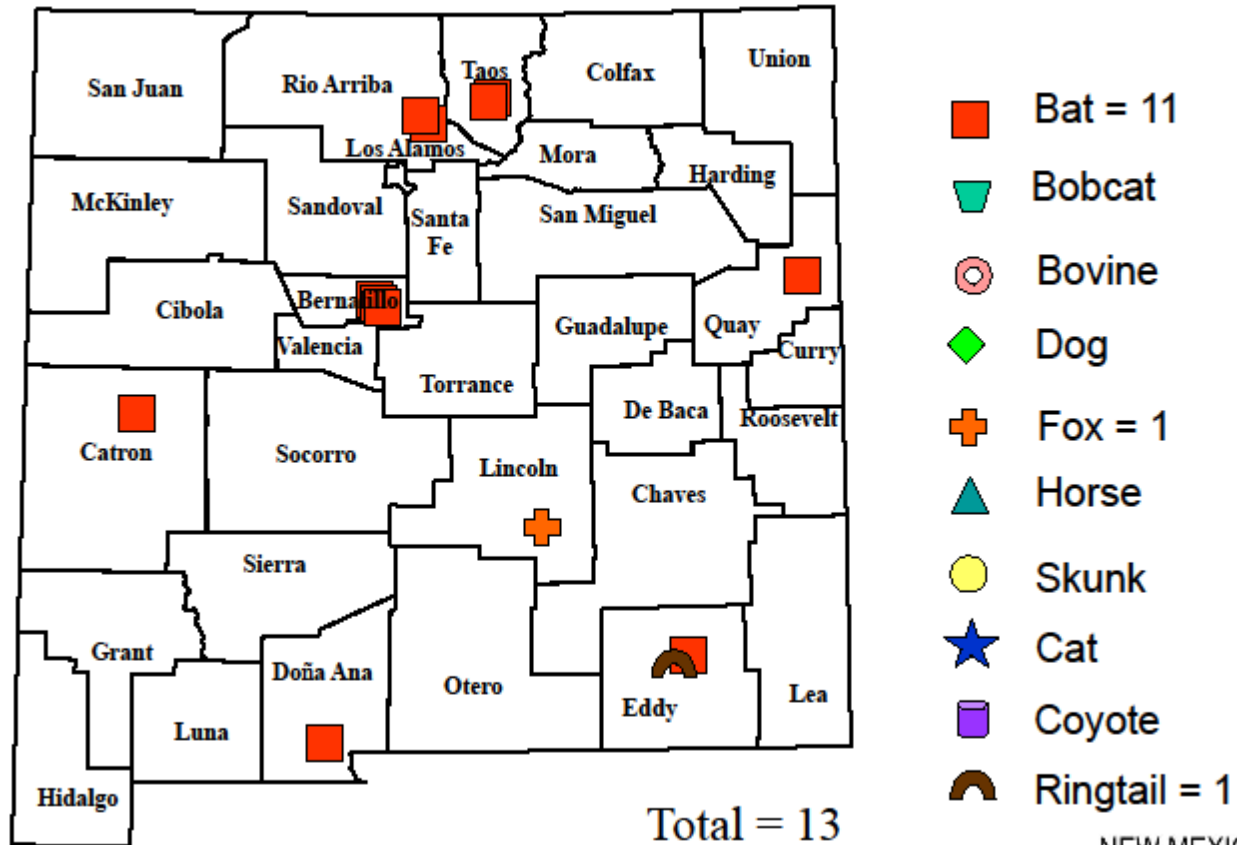
As of 12/31/2013



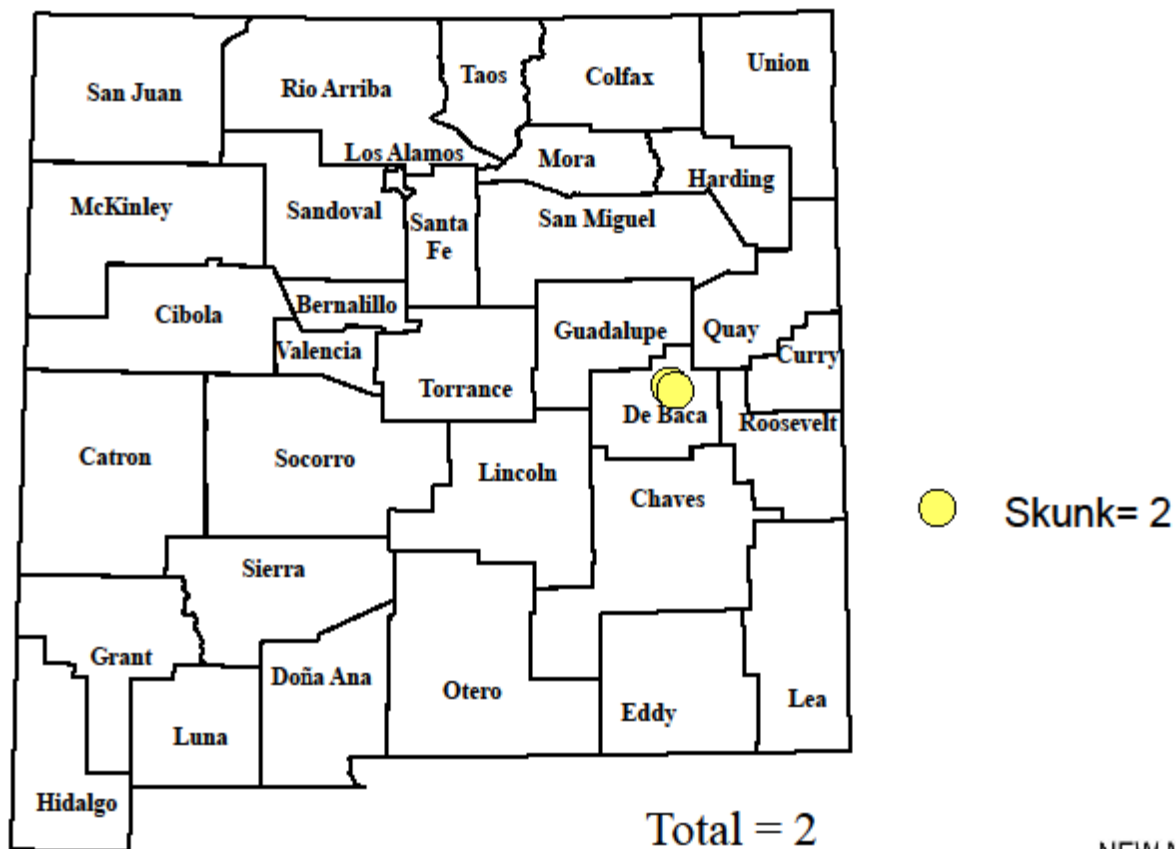
Animal Rabies by County, New Mexico, 2014



Animal Rabies by County, New Mexico, 2015



Animal Rabies by County, New Mexico, 2016



As of 03/25/2016



I could not find an incidence of rabies in a bear in New Mexico

I offer two possible solutions to save the bear

- Add an exception for bears in the same paragraph that excepts rabbits in Title 7, Chapter 4, Part 2.
- Develop a rapid response team to determine the fate of the wildlife in question based on potential for rabies, defensive or predatory action of the animal, and location of the attack (human habitat or wildlife habitat)

Pros and Cons of the exception clause

Pros

It should be a cheap fix

It should be easy

Cons

It does not take into account the nature of the attack....defensive vs. predatory

It only addresses bears



Pros and Cons of the Rapid Response Team

Pros

1. It gives the experts control
2. It allows for decisions on all wildlife, not just bears, rabbits and rodents

Cons

I would have said cost here but both Game and Fish and Department of Health have people on call anyway.

