

# Rabies Assessment, Saskatoon Health Region

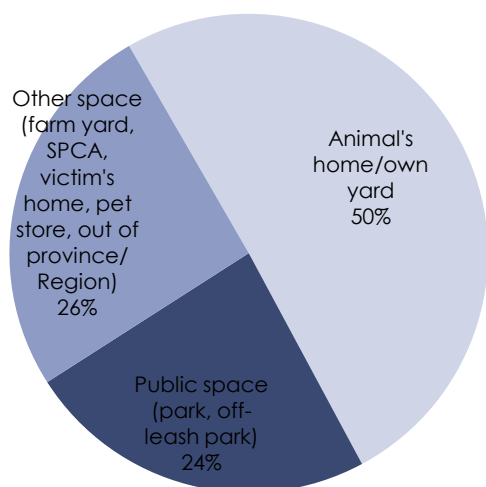
## Highlights

- In Saskatchewan, animal bites must be reported under the Public Health Act. Animal bites represent significant cost to individuals and to the health care system. Rabies assessment involves checking rabies vaccination status, observing the animal for 10 days to ensure rabies does not develop, and, in some cases, submitting the deceased animal for testing. Depending on the risk, rabies vaccine and/or rabies immune globulin is offered to the person bitten or exposed.
- Reports of animal bites have steadily increased in the Region in the last five years, especially for dogs and cats, who account for 90% of all bites (bites also denote scratches or exposures to broken skin).
- Each bite is assessed for rabies risk. In 2016, Disease Control, Population and Public Health, assessed a total of 407 dog and 211 cat bites, a 70% increase from 2012 (Table 1).
- Less than half of these bites involved a dog or cat that was up to date for rabies vaccination (Figure 2).
- Of the 618 dog and cat bites reported in 2016, half of them occurred in the animal's yard or home, and 24% occurred in a public space or park (Figure 1).
- Approximately 80% of these dog and cat bites occurred to adults, 6% to children under five years and 15% to children between five and 17 years (not shown).

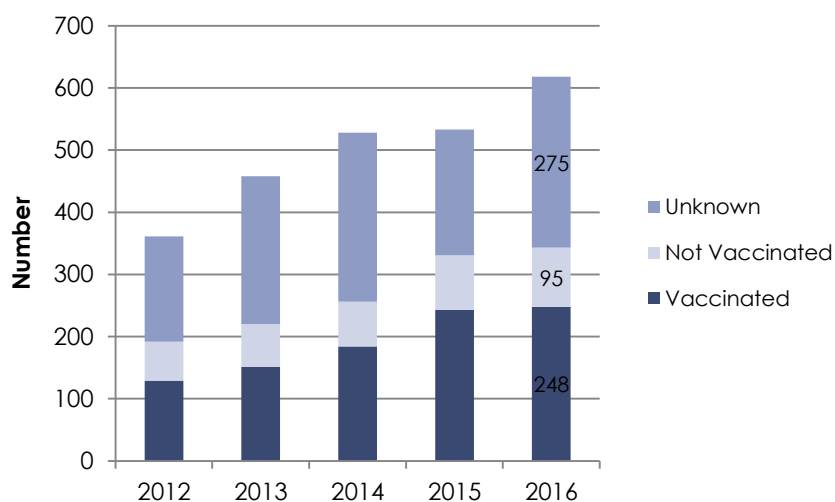
**Table 1: Animal Bites, Saskatoon Health Region, 2012 to 2016**

Species	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Dog	261	302	369	359	407
Cat	100	155	159	174	211
Skunk	9		1	5	1
Equine	9	1	0	1	1
Bat	30	21	13	33	37
Other species	51	28	41	14	27
Total animal exposures (all species)	460	507	583	586	684

**Figure 1: Location of Dog and Cat Bites, 2016**



**Figure 2: Dog and Cat Bites by Rabies Vaccination Status, 2012 to 2016**



Source: Population and Public Health