



## Services District Quarterly Activities Update

The mission of the Vector Control Services District is to prevent and minimize the spread of vector-borne diseases, injury and discomfort to the residents of Alameda County. Upon request, our Vector Control staff will provide an on-site inspection of your property, neighborhood, or community and evaluate the best methods to control the particular vector through habitat modifications, source reductions, education, integrated pest management practices, and regulatory code compliance.

### Requests for Service Received

Requests for service are received by the public and are categorized by "reason codes" as they are assigned to our district inspectors, which are dedicated to specific geographical areas. The following are requests for service summaries for 2015 as of December 30, 2015, and represents our year-end report.

- Rodents (1,792)
  - Roof Rats (454)
  - Norway Rats (119)
  - House Mice (357)
  - Various Rodents (862)
- Wildlife (1,544)
  - Skunks (464)
  - Raccoons (511)
  - Opossum (250)
  - Bats (101)
  - Various Wildlife (226)
- Flies/Garbage/Rubbish/Wastes (327)
- Cockroaches (336)
- Wasps/Yellowjackets/Bees (286)
- Bed Bugs (310)
- Community Outreach (19)
- Rabies Testing (154)
- Scabies/Mites (44)
- Fleas (82)
- Ticks/Lyme disease (13)
- All Others (457)
- Total Requests for Service (5,364)

**Rabies surveillance** has been unusually high this year with 13 rabid bats detected so far in 2015. Four bats from Fremont, three from Pleasanton and Sunol, two from Livermore and one from San Leandro. The bats are from four different species.

Rabies is a fatal disease if not treated soon after saliva exposure, which can be from a bite of the bats tiny teeth, or saliva introduced into a cut/abrasion, or into mucus membrane, such as eyes or nose. Insectivorous bats are the animal most often detected with rabies in Alameda County and California. By this time last year, we submitted 103 animals to the Alameda County Public Health Laboratory for rabies testing, but this year we are up to 154 submissions in the same time frame! In the past, each year 1-9 rabid bats are detected in Alameda County, now we will have to say, 1-13!

#### **Lyme Disease, Tick Surveillance and Awareness:**

Be "tick-aware" of your surroundings when you are visiting our local parks and recreation areas! We are well into the adult tick season and these small disease vectors can be found on grasses next to trails. An occasional tick check of yourself, your pets and companions will help reduce your exposure. We can help with tick identification, risk assessment and help facilitate the submission of ticks for lab testing for the Lyme disease spirochete.

**Wildlife and Rodents:** It is always a good time to pest-proof your home and we can help with a free pest proofing inspection that will help identify vulnerable points on the exterior of your home that may allow unwanted visitors to move in with you. These visitors can expose you and your pets to zoonotic diseases, damage and contaminate your property, as well as disturbing your wellbeing with their nocturnal activities once they gain access to your home.

**Overall,** our requests for service are down by about 4.2% over last year. Bed bug requests for service are down about 10% from last year, which is a good trend. However, the roof rat requests for service are up 5%. Largely due to the increase in rabid bats detected, we have an amazing 49.5% increase in rabies testing to go along with the 13 rabid bats. Skunk requests for service are down about 16%, and raccoon requests for service are also down about 36.2%.