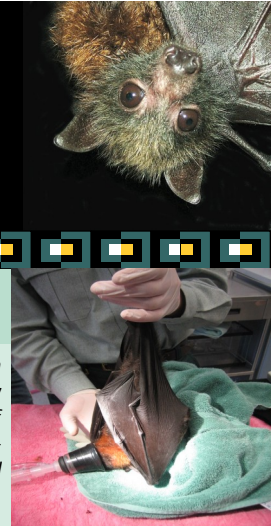


ABLV BAT STATS

ABLV Update, June 2012

Australian Bat Lyssavirus report June 2012

This report presents the latest information on Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) testing across Australia. Information has been made available by CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory (CSIRO-AAHL), The Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards (SCAHLs), QLD Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (QLD DAFF), QLD Health, The Australian Registry of Wildlife Health, Australian Wildlife Health Network subscribers and State/Territory representatives of the Chief Veterinary Officers, and is collated by the Australian Wildlife Health Network as part of wildlife disease reporting requirements. More detailed information is available in the wildlife health information system (eWHIS), www.wildlifehealth.org.au.



Positive ABLV cases January to June, 2012

There has been one positive case of Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) reported in Australia between January and June 2012 (Table 1).

Queensland

A juvenile black flying fox (*Pteropus alecto*) from the Logan district in south-east Queensland presented recumbent and aggressive. The bat was suspected to have had contact with a pet dog, however the risk of exposure to the dog was deemed to be minimal. There was no potentially dangerous human contact in this case.



Photo courtesy of Ákos Lumnitzer

Public Health Significance

Infected bats are debilitated and as a result are typically found on or near to the ground. This brings them closer to humans and animals, increasing the probability of contact. No positive cases reported to date in 2012 have involved contact with the potential for ABLV transmission to humans.

Note: This update covers the period January to June 2012. In September 2012, the first positive case of ABLV was identified in South Australia. Details will be provided in the next Bat Stats update.

Table 1: ABLV positive cases in bats in Australia (2012)

STATE	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jan-Jun Total
NSW	0	0	0
NT	0	0	0
QLD	0	1	1
VIC	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0*
TAS	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1

* See 'Note' above

Table 2: ABLV cases in Australian bats as confirmed by FAT, PCR, IHC and/or Virus Isolation[^] to June 2012*

	NSW	NT	QLD**	VIC	WA	SA	TOTALS (by year)
1995	0	0	1 [#]	0	0	0	1
1996	1	0	9	1	0	0	11
1997	7	1	27	0	0	0	35
1998	1	0	26	0	0	0	27
1999	0	0	6	0	0	0	6
2000	1	0	14	0	0	0	15
2001	0	0	9	1	4	0	14
2002	4	0	10	2	1	0	17
2003	6	0	3	2	0	0	11
2004	5	0	6	1	0	0	12
2005	6	0	5	0	0	0	11
2006	2	0	4	0	0	0	6
2007	6	0	2	0	0	0	8
2008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009	2	0	10 ^a	0	0	0	12
2010	0	0	8	0	1	0	9
2011	0	0	5 ^a	2	0	0	7
2012	0	0	1	0	0	0 [^]	1
TOTALS (by State)	41	1	146	9	6	0[^]	203

[^] Note that ACT, SA and TAS have not recorded any cases of ABLV that satisfy this case definition. (SA: see 'Note' above)

[#] ABLV was first recognised in 1996. A bat from Townsville, QLD that died in 1995 was subsequently diagnosed with ABLV.

* Source: CSIRO AAHL; Queensland Health 'Bat Stats' Database; National Animal Health Information System; Janine Barrett PhD thesis 2004 (with permission)

** Note: Higher numbers of positive results were associated with peak years of testing in 1997 - 1998.

^a Note: Results were reported as 'equivocal' for FAT and 'negative' for PCR in three cases (2009 and 2011). It is not possible to exclude the possibility of ABLV in cases with these results, and they are included in the dataset.

LOCATION OF ABLV CASES, JANUARY TO JUNE 2012



ABLV BAT FACTS

1. ABLV is a virus that infects Australian flying foxes and insectivorous bats.
2. ABLV is closely related to, but distinct from Rabies virus.
3. ABLV causes a fatal disease in people and to date has been responsible for the deaths of two people in Australia.
4. People should not handle bats unless they are appropriately vaccinated.
5. Bats that are suspected to be infected with ABLV should be reported to the local Public Health Unit or veterinary authority for possible ABLV testing.
6. ABLV is transmitted to humans through biting, and potentially also through contact with saliva. In the event of a bat bite or other significant contact, seek medical attention URGENTLY.
7. Penetrating bite or scratch wounds should immediately be washed thoroughly with soap and water for 15 minutes* and a virucidal disinfectant applied. Bat saliva in the eyes or mouth should be rinsed out immediately and thoroughly with water.
8. For more information contact your local Public Health Unit for advice.

* As per current World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines

AN ABLV INFECTED BAT MAY DISPLAY ANY OF THESE CLINICAL SIGNS:

- Abnormal behaviour such as excitation/agitation/aggression
- Paralysis or paresis
- Unprovoked attacks
- Unusual vocalisation
- Inability to fly
- Convulsions/seizures/tremors

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO HANDLE AN INJURED, UNWELL OR AGGRESSIVE BAT— REPORT IT TO YOUR LOCAL WILDLIFE SERVICE, VET OR BAT CARER GROUP

USEFUL LINKS

For current policy on surveillance and management consult AUSVETPLAN:

(<http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/ABL-07EDIT20Jan10.pdf>)

For current Department of Health and Aging information regarding ABLV:

([http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1188BC2B96C74C17CA257A4E0082D217/\\$File/ABLV-rabies-song.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1188BC2B96C74C17CA257A4E0082D217/$File/ABLV-rabies-song.pdf))

For vaccination information contact your local or regional Public Health Unit, or see the immunisation handbook online:

(<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook-home>)

WILDLIFE COORDINATORS

If you would like information on ABLV testing or wish to report a suspected ABLV positive bat please contact your State/Territory Department of Primary Industries or local Wildlife Coordinator (below).

STATE	CONTACT	CONTACT DETAILS
ACT	Will Andrew	W: 02 6207 2357 F: 02 6207 2093 will.andrew@act.gov.au
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AWHN Bat Health Focus Group

This document has been approved by the Bat Health Focus Group. This group was formed to act as a catalyst to improve communication and coordination on issues relating to Australian Bat Lyssavirus in Australia.

Members come from organisations including Australian and State Government departments of agriculture, public health and environment; CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory, universities, the Australasian Bat Society and the Australian Speleological Federation. Members include veterinarians, biologists, ecologists, virologists, epidemiologists and wildlife/bat carers.

Using a collaborative One Health approach, the Bat Health Focus Group considers bat health issues in relation to the broader context of biosecurity, public health, livestock health and environmental impacts in Australia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PUBLICATION PLEASE CONTACT THE AWHN on awhn@zoo.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9932 4368

