

0020576

**From:** [Britta Muiznieks](#)  
**To:** [Thayer Broili](#); [Mike Murray](#)  
**Cc:** [Darrell Echols](#); [Doug McGee](#); [Tyler Bogardus](#); [Cyndy Holda](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Test results for fox shot at Cape Point in 2007  
**Date:** 03/14/2008 11:23 AM

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USDA-WS was here when the fox shooting incident occurred. As a favor to us they tested this fox for rabies. We sent Josh the link to the website. He addresses some of the other issues discussed on the forum as well.

Britta

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----- Forwarded by Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS on 03/14/2008 11:17 AM -----

**Joshua.L.Biesecker@aphis.usda.gov**

03/14/2008 11:05 AM AST

To: [Britta\\_Muiznieks@nps.gov](mailto:Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov)  
cc: [Todd.A.Menke@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Todd.A.Menke@aphis.usda.gov),  
[Doug\\_McGee@nps.gov](mailto:Doug_McGee@nps.gov)  
Subject: Re: Test results for fox  
shot at Cape Point in 2007

Britta,

The gray fox was tested by USDA-WS using the Direct Rapid Immunohistochemistry Test procedure. It was not sent to CDC. The test showed that the fox was negative for rabies but the behavior that this fox was displaying was abnormal. Typically, foxes move during low-light hours, most heavily around dusk and dawn and during the night. I have seen foxes during the day while working at CAHA on two occasions, never on the beach and both times the foxes did not allow us to approach them. It is not normal for foxes to remain in areas where people are present.

Data from the North Carolina Department of Health's 2006 Rabies Report indicates that during 2006: Statewide there were 50 foxes sent in for sampling that tested positive for rabies and **for your information, 20 of the cats tested were positive for rabies as well.** No cases were reported in Dare County during 2006 but there was one rabies positive animal case from Hyde County and it was a fox. During the period from 1993-2005, data indicates that 19 raccoons, 1 cat, 1 fox, and 1 bat tested positive for rabies in Dare County.

In most situations it is not biologically sound or safe to human, health, and safety to relocate animals into the wild such as fox, coyote, raccoon, or bobcat, nor is it legal. According to the North Carolina Administrative Code 15A NCAC 10B.0106 "Wild animals in the order Carnivora and beaver shall be humanely euthanized either

at the site of capture or at a facility designed to humanely handle the euthanasia or released on the property where captured. Animals transported or held for euthanasia must be euthanized within 12 hours of capture. Anyone in possession of live animals being transported for relocation or euthanasia under a depredation permit must have the depredation permit in their possession."

I also read the message from Caroline Kennedy of Defenders of Wildlife where she wants to abolish the use of M-44s but before that gets blown out of proportion, the USDA-WS-NC does not use M-44s on the project at CAHA. I was surprised to see that the cat supporting groups didn't jump on that message.

Best Wishes,

**Josh Biesecker**  
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