2014 Animal Bite Trends

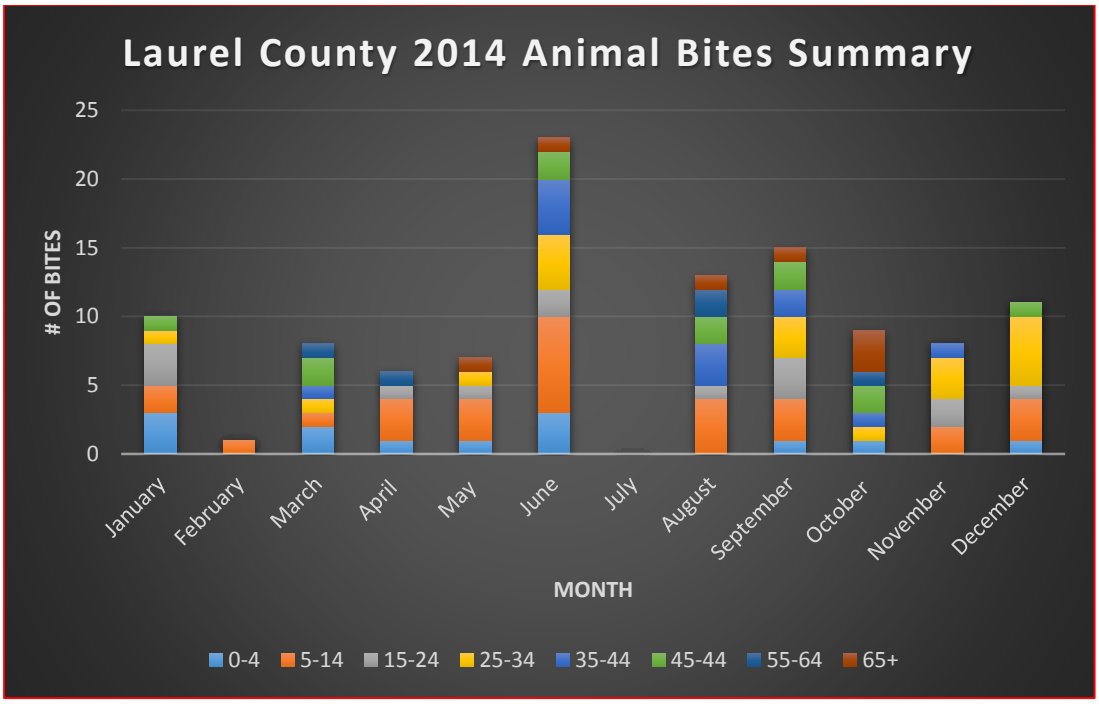
Laurel County Health Department Environmental Services tracked animal bite reports from January through December 2014.

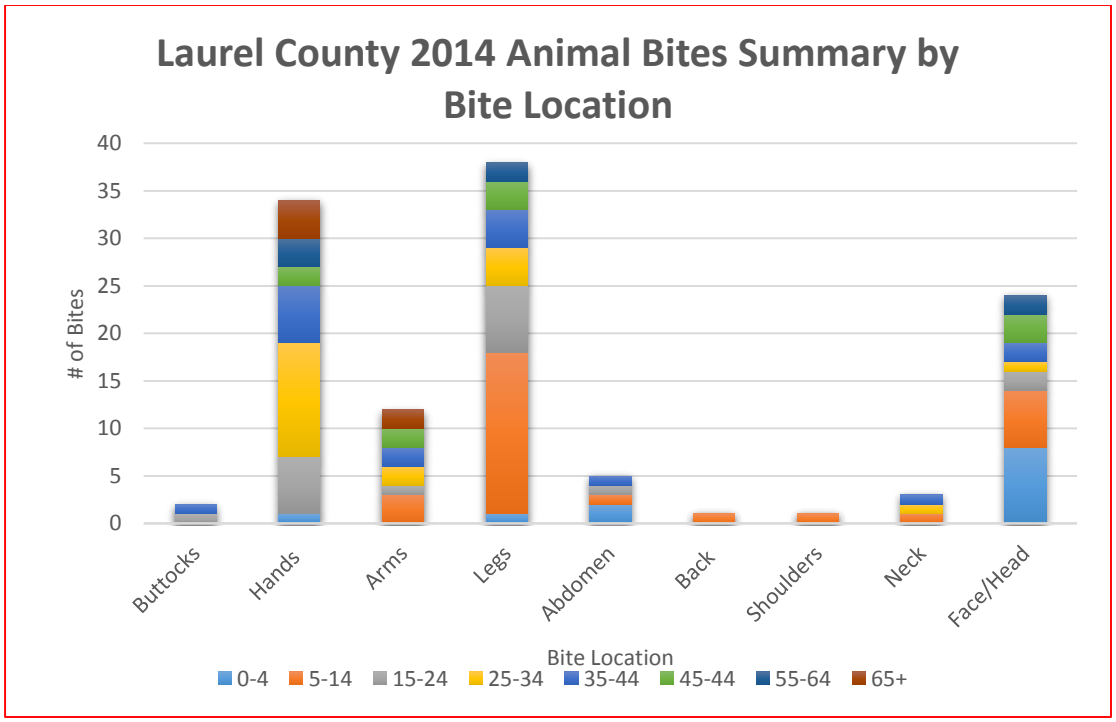
Tracking Reports:

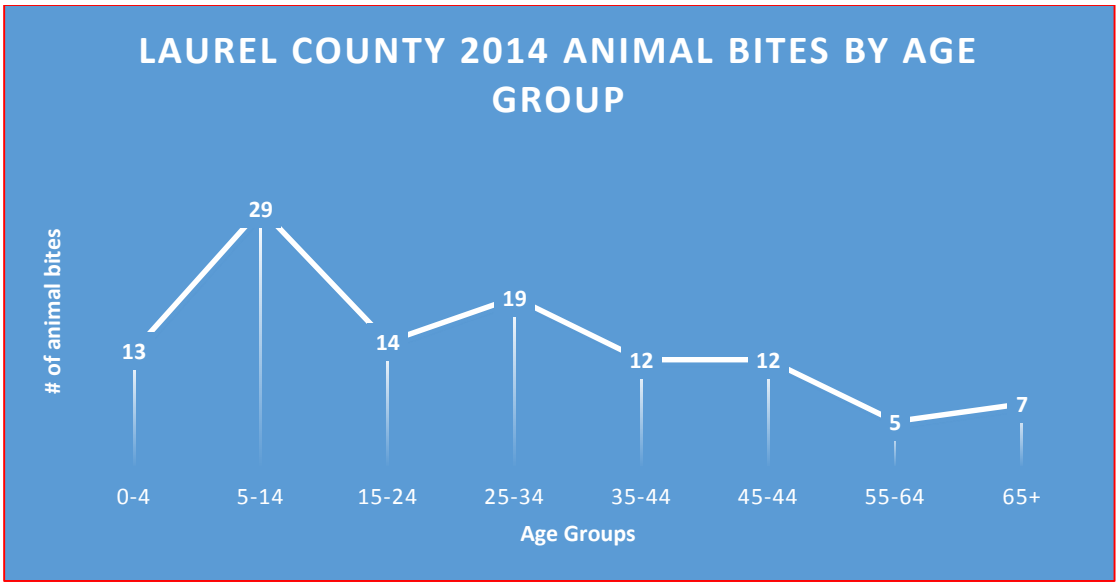
2014 animal bites	0-4 years	5-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-44 years	55-64 years	65+ years
January	3 Dogs	2 Dogs	3 Dogs	1 dog	0	1 dog	0	0
February	0	0	1 cat	0	0	0	0	0
March	2 dog	1 dog	0	1 dog	1 dog	1 dog/1 cat	1 dog	
April	1 dog	3 dog	1 dog	0	0	0	1 dog	0
May	1 dog	3 dog	1 dog	1 dog	0	0	0	1 dog
June	3 dog	7 dog	2 dog	4 dog	4 dog	1 dog/1 cat	0	1 dog
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	4 dog	1 dog	0	3 dog	2 dog	2 dog	1 cat
September	1 dog	3 dog	3 Dog	3 dog	2 dog	2 dog		1 dog
October	1 cat	0	0	1 dog	1 dog	2 dog	1 dog	3 dog
November	0	2 Dogs	2 dog	3 dog	1 dog	0	0	0
December	1 dog	3 dog	1 dog	5 dog	0	1 dog	0	0

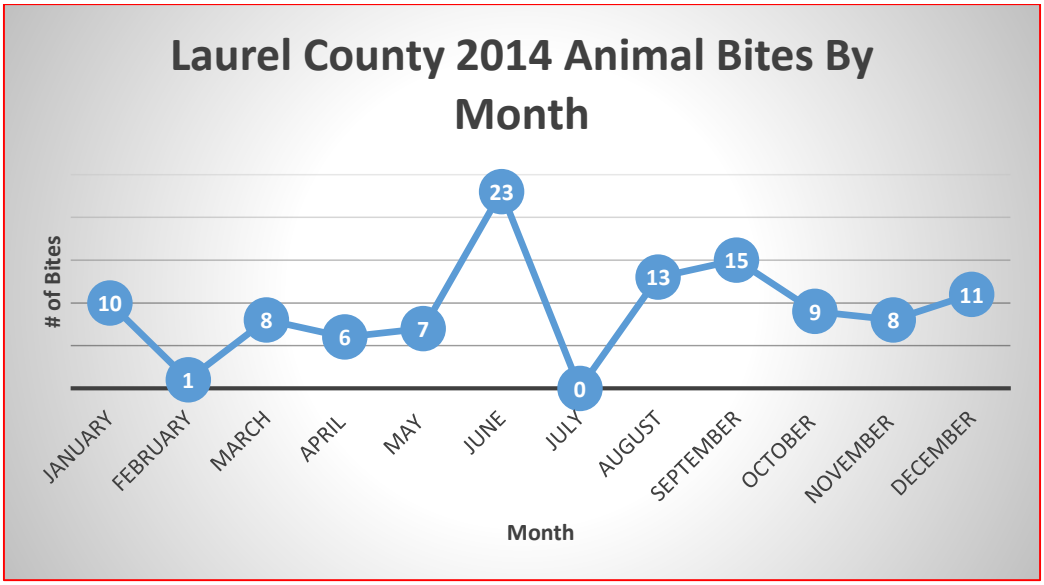
2014 animal bites	0-4 Years	5-14 Years	15-24 Years	25-34 Years	35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65+ Years
Buttocks	0	0	1 dog	0	1 dog	0	0	0
Hands	1 dog	0	5 dog/1 cat	11 dog/1 cat	5 dog/1 cat	2 dog	3 dog	4 dog
Arms	0	3 dog	1 dog	2 dog	2 dog	2 dog	0	2 dog
Legs	1 dog	17 dog	7 dog	4 dog	4 dog	3 dog	2 dog	0
Abdomen	2 dog	1 dog	1 dog	0	1 dog	0	0	0
Back	0	1 dog	0	0	1 dog	1 dog	0	0
Shoulders	0	1 dog	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neck	0	1 dog	0	1 dog	1 dog	0	0	0
Face/Head	8 dog	6 dog	2 dog	1 dog	2 dog	3 dog	2 dog	0

An analysis of the data from the tracking reports was performed using Microsoft Excel. The analysis was performed to look for patterns in: when the bite occurred, the part of the body affected, and the age of the bite victim. Below are a series of graphs created to help better observe these patterns and trends.









<u>After the analysis of the data was finalized. Environmentalists observed some unique patterns and brainstormed why these patterns may be occurring.</u>

The following conclusions were drawn from the results of the analysis of the data collection.

- **<u>The highest number of animal bites occurred during the month of June.</u>** It is believed that the bites were higher was due to the fact that it was warming up outside and people were starting to get out more and engage with their animals and most of the dogs were getting aggravated due to the fact that it was heating up and most have not shed their winter coats.

- **There were no reports of animal bites during the month of July** Normally this is a very busy month, however the plunge in reported bites may have been due to the fact that July of 2014 was an usually wet one and people were not engaging with their animals.
- **Ages 5-24 was the highest number reported among all the age groups.** This may due to the fact that people are becoming more aware of the fact that it is important to have a bite checked out by a medical expert to be on the safe side.
- **Legs was the highest bite location for ages 5-14 and Hands the highest for ages 25-34.** The 5-14 age range having the highest bite location as legs is most likely due to the fact that the younger children have a tendency to run from animals while the 25-34 group are more likely to try to protect themselves with their hands or are less fearful.
- **The highest rate of occurrence for face and head bites were ages 0-14.** This is most likely due to the fact that the children are smaller and more face to face with the animals.

Continuation of project

Animal bites are currently being tracked for 2015. A comparison analysis will be performed on the 2014 and 2015 data in early 2016.