

Galion City Board of Health Environmental Division Monthly Report for April 2019

Food Safety

On April 29th and 30th, I spent both days with the Ohio Department of Agriculture under and office/field survey for the licensing of retail food establishments in the city of Galion. They carefully review the files from the last 3 years including inspection reports, plan reviews, inspection frequency, complaint investigations, mobile inspections, minutes, resolutions, public hearing documents, and cost analysis. They also accompany me on 2 inspections in the field where they do an inspection while I do an inspection, and during the exit interview and even exchange of our reports is made. My inspection report must state at least 80 % of all of the violations that the surveyor puts on paper to pass. It is an extremely stressful and time-consuming survey that occurs every 3 years, and I am glad it is over.

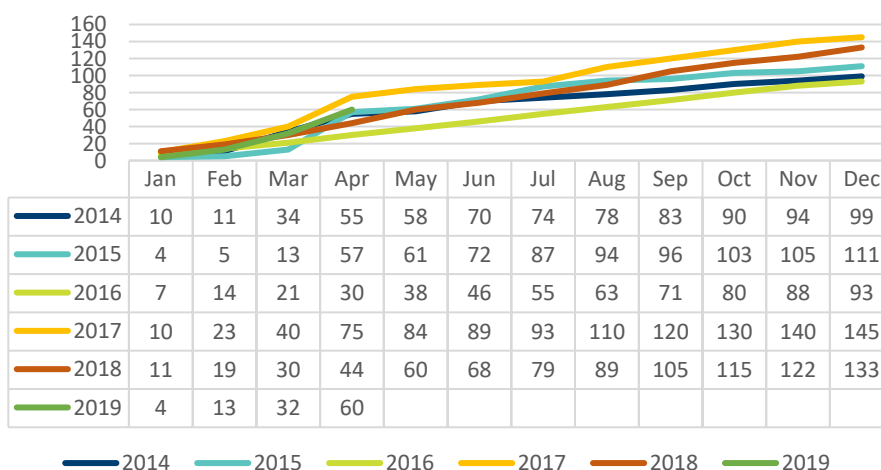
QI Project in EH

A few years ago, environmental health decided to see if the EH Food licensing renewal process could be improved. It was becoming an issue with 6-12% of the operators renewing their license late and consequently, having to pay a 25% late fee. EH developed a fishbone diagram to identify causes and effects of late renewals. After eliminating ineffective reminder methods, asking the operators through survey what their preferred method of communication was, and continuing our best management practice of providing an initial paper mailing with one additional email reminder, GCHD is currently experiencing a 5% late rate. Although this is higher than our goal to keep late rate at <1%, it is still cost effective to the program and fair to the operators. EH has decided to continue to implement the improved process.

Public Health Nuisances

There were 28 new nuisance complaints in April which was overwhelming considering I was off on vacation for a week in April. Several nuisances are abated or closed; however, there is some follow-up and carryover into this month for some of the complaints.

Public Health Nuisances, Cumulative Total



Swimming Pools

All swimming pool applications were sent out to operators in Galion prior to April 1st, and all of them were returned with fees on or before April 30th, as required by statute.

Healthy Homes/Lead

The cleaning supplies and buckets were purchased from Wolf Hardware. We give these out from the office as we see families in need, and we will give them out during 3rd Friday events. Emily and Olivia are very helpful in identifying qualifying families as they come into our office. I am trying to start the office based training at 3 pediatrician offices, but I am having a difficult time with scheduling or receiving a return phone call.

General Environmental Health

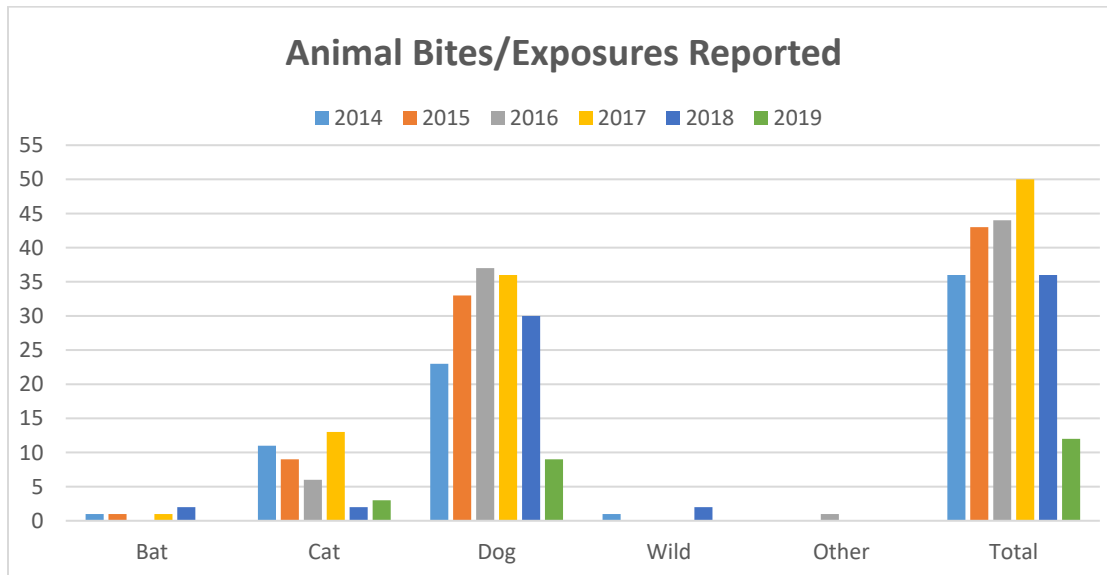
I mailed out all solid waste hauler license applications and letters to proposed haulers by May 1, 2019. The solid waste hauler program charges each hauler \$25 per truck, which is due by June 1st of each year. I perform annual inspections of the trucks at the waste water treatment plant during the first week of June each year

Manufactured Home Parks

I will be doing my mobile home park inspections during May. These reports are then submitted to the Ohio Department of Commerce licenser and enforcement agency as well as the park owner within 10 days.

Rabies Prevention

GCHD received 3 new animal (dog) bite/exposure reports in April. 10-day quarantine notices were sent out; however, one dog was a stray.



NEHA Intern

I am happy to report that the NEHA intern from last summer has graduated with her Masters degree from the University of Findlay.

Our NEHA intern will be starting on June 11th. Her name is Lauren Fricke and she is currently working on her B.S. in Environmental Science at Baylor University. She will be completing a project for her school and our department focusing on community health surveys either on lead poisoning prevention or nuisance abatement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Barnes, R.S.
Director of Environmental Health