

VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA



Controlling Vectors. Protecting Public Health.

MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2021

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www.sccvector.org



Keep Wildlife Wild

Prevent attracting them to your home

There are certain things you could be doing that are accidentally attracting wildlife to your home. You can follow these steps to reduce attraction.

- Pick fruits before they fall
- Manage bird feeders and clean up fallen seeds
- Do not leave pet food or water outside
- Clear thick vegetation

To request an outdoor inspection for wildlife prevention or exclusion, submit a request online at www.sccvector.org, call (408) 918-4770, or email vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

The County of Santa Clara Vector Control District is committed to protecting the public from vectors capable of transmitting diseases or creating a nuisance.

The following services are available for free to the Santa Clara County public.

- Advice and control measures for mosquitoes
- Free mosquitofish for mosquito control
- Home inspections and advice for rodent infestations and wildlife activity
- Insect identification and confirmation letter
- Dead bird pick up for West Nile virus testing
- Yellowjacket and wasp control/nest removal in public areas and advice on control
- Consultations for bed bug abatement
- Educational presentations for K-12 students, tailored for individual classroom settings or school assemblies
- Educational presentations/booths for homeowner associations, organizations, businesses, civic groups, and other interested parties



A VECTOR IS ANY ANIMAL OR INSECT THAT CAN TRANSMIT DISEASES TO ANIMALS OR PEOPLE.



OPERATIONS DATA

Mosquito Control

The District has a robust mosquito prevention program in place, focusing on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to eliminate mosquitoes before they reach adulthood, and begin infecting people and animals with diseases. IPM is composed of four elements and provides the most effective way to manage pests. It includes the use of biological, cultural, physical, and chemical control. To learn more about IPM, visit <https://bit.ly/WhatIsIPM>.

Year-round, staff inspect potential mosquito breeding sources like catch basins, marshes, creeks, ponds, neglected pools, and anything that holds standing water. The District uses biological controls such as mosquitofish and products approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, that specifically target mosquito larvae and pupae to eliminate mosquito populations in the county.



1 curb was inspected for immature stages of mosquitoes but was not found to be breeding

Anything that can hold standing water can be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Even public areas like street curbs can hold standing water when it rains or grass is overwatered. Our operations team checks areas like these throughout the county to eliminate early stage mosquitoes before they can become biting adults.

OPERATIONS DATA

Mosquito Control - Neglected Pools Program

Mosquitoes pose a serious health risk to humans because they can transmit deadly diseases like West Nile virus. Different mosquito species can carry different diseases, but not all mosquitoes are infected. If mosquitoes only need a bottle cap of water to breed, one neglected swimming pool can breed thousands of mosquitoes.

You can help prevent mosquito breeding in pools by following these precautions - do not allow water levels in your swimming pool to fall below the pump circulation area, drain pool and keep it dry after rainfalls, or permanently remove pool after obtaining the proper permits. If there is work being done to the property/pool, contact the District to help control the mosquito breeding while the work is being done.

To report mosquito activity and abandoned/neglected swimming pools you can call the District office at (408) 918-4770, submit a service request at www.sccvector.org, or email vectorinfo@cep.sccgov.org.

Green pools are usually a sign of possible breeding



Adult mosquito above water and immature mosquito stages in water



0 out of 4 inspected neglected pools were found to be breeding mosquitoes.

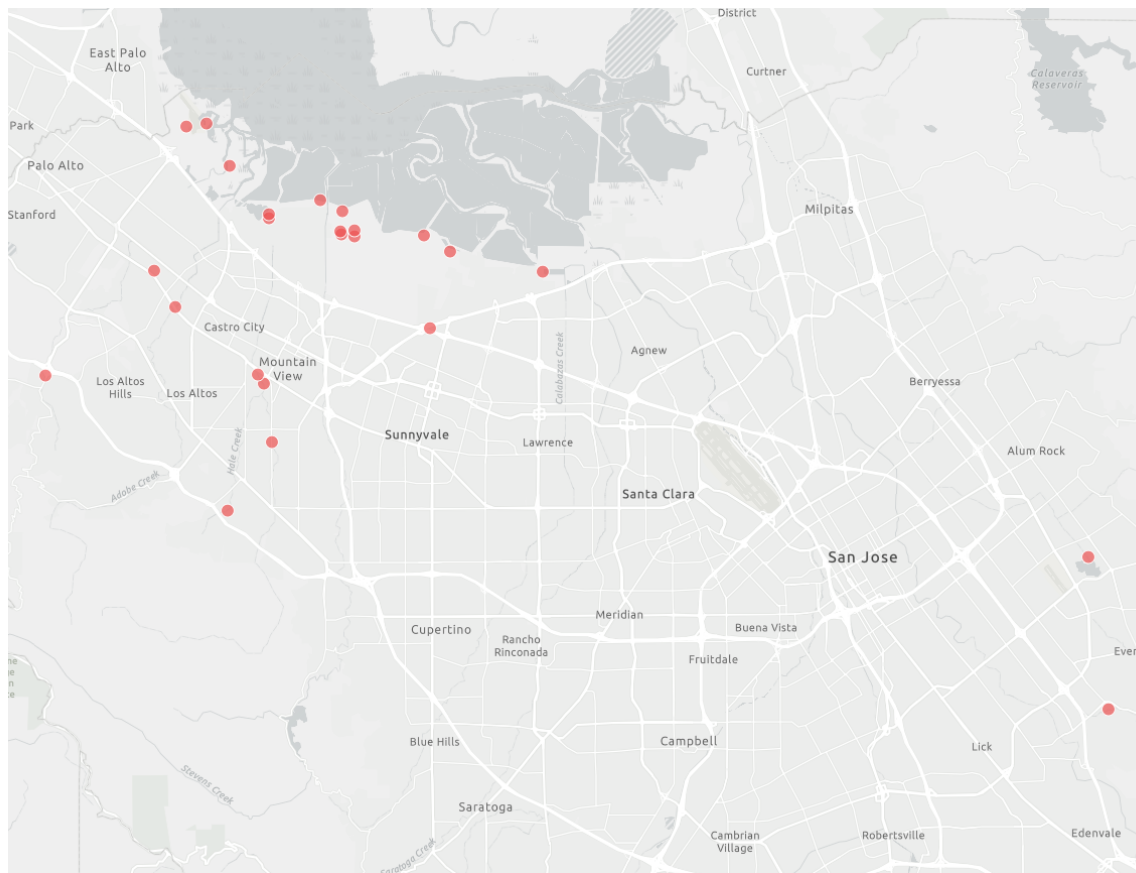
OPERATIONS DATA

Mosquito Control - Other Locations



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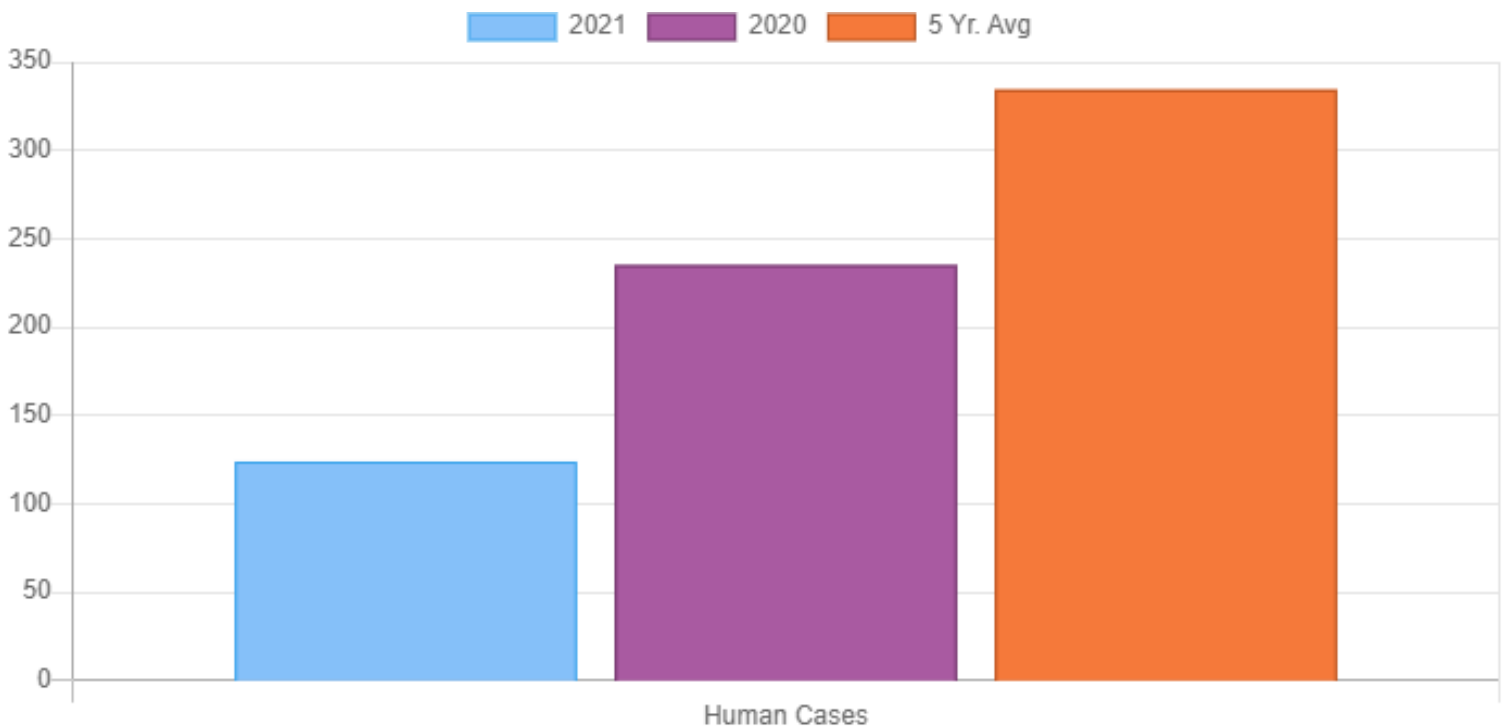
35 bodies of water like ponds, marshes, and water troughs were treated to eliminate mosquitoes out of 176 inspected sites.



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

West Nile Virus in California Counties - 2021

Just as the County's Vector Control District monitors for diseases transmitted by infected mosquitoes, there are other districts in California that do the same. As of December, 2021 California had positive West Nile virus tests for the following categories: 117 human cases, 210 dead birds, 90 sentinel chickens, 13 horses, and 2,263 mosquito samples. Human cases for West Nile virus infection were significantly lower in 2021, compared to 2020. In 2020, California had 235 human cases and only 124 in 2021.



Santa Clara County had 3 positive mosquito pools in 2021. Although mosquito activity significantly drops during the winter, our team continues to actively inspect and control all immature mosquito stages found breeding throughout the county.

***For more information on WNV activity in California,
visit <https://westnile.ca.gov>.***

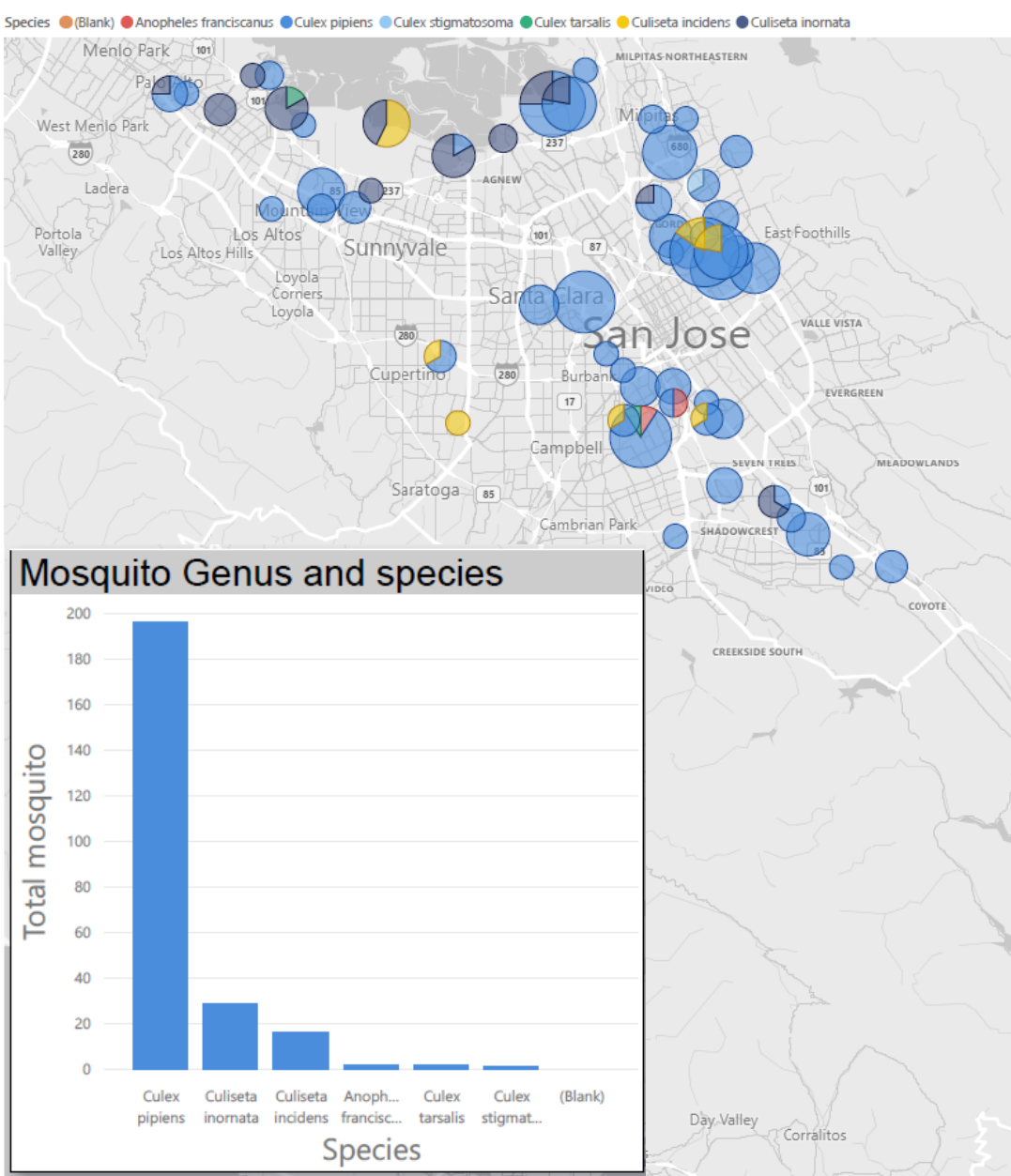
DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Mosquito Trapping

Mosquito trapping is conducted throughout the entire county to monitor the abundance of mosquitoes and species present in the area. Mosquitoes are highly attracted to carbon dioxide (CO2) and is one of the methods they use to find hosts. The District uses CO2 traps to attract and trap mosquitoes.

The top three mosquito species trapped in December included, *Culex pipiens* (Northern house mosquito), *Culiseta inornata* (winter marsh mosquito), and *Culiseta incidens* (cool weather mosquito). To learn how you can help prevent mosquito bites and mosquito breeding around your home, visit www.sccvector.org/mosquitoes.

Mosquito Surveillance Program

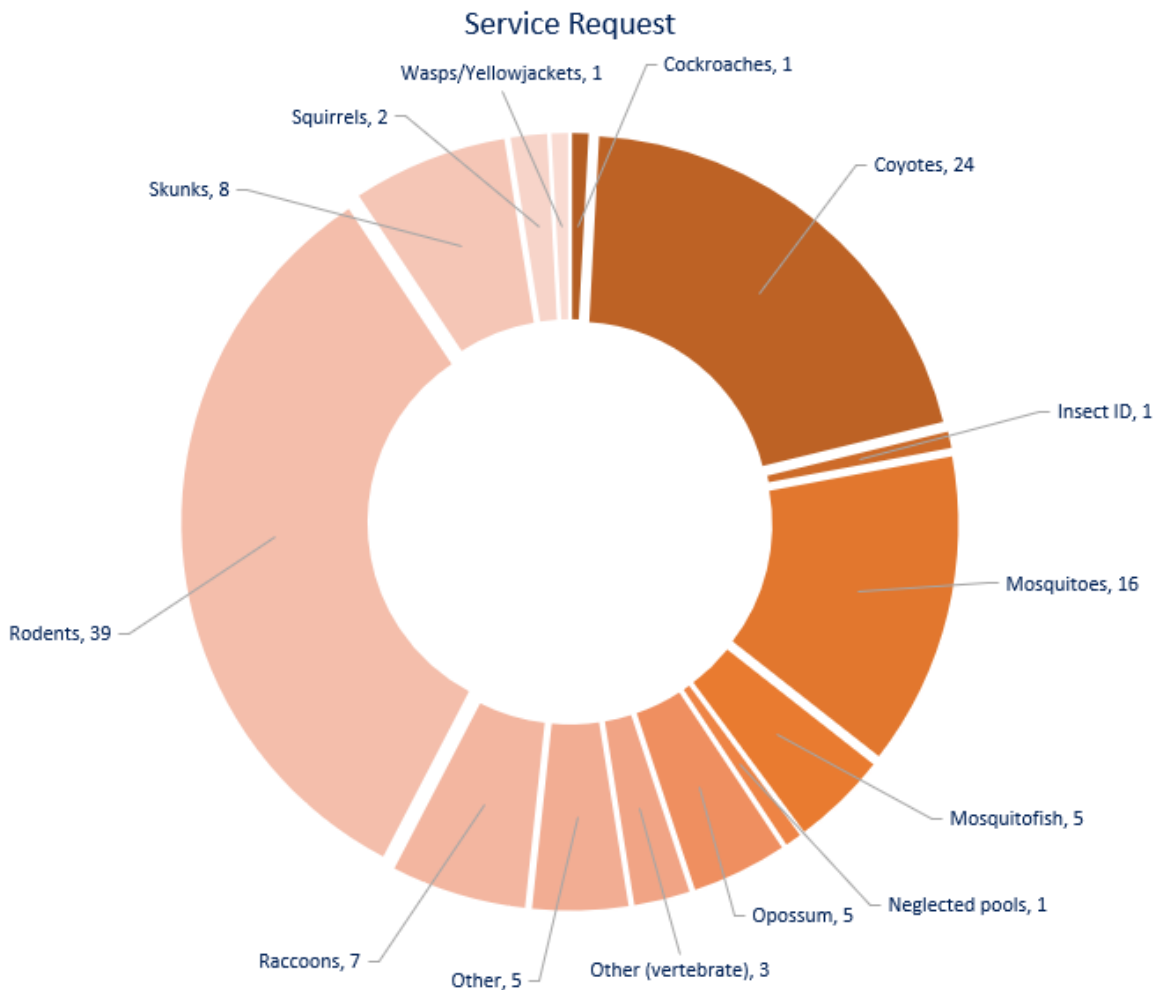


Staff member Christopher setting up a carbon dioxide (CO2) mosquito trap

PUBLIC SERVICE REQUESTS

December Overview

The District provides services to the public including home inspections for rodents and wildlife activity, mosquitofish deliveries, insect identification assistance, and other services. In December, the District received 118 services requests, with the highest requests being for rodent assistance. If you would like to request a service, please submit a request online, at www.sccvector.org or call (408) 918-4770.



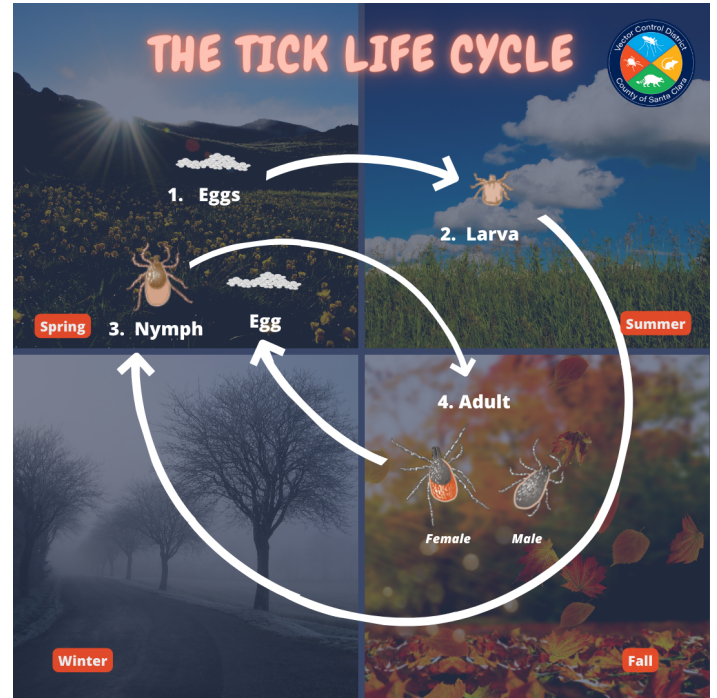
Service requests received in December



PUBLIC EDUCATION

Community Outreach

Different stages of ticks are active throughout all seasons, that is why it is important to protect yourself from tick bites all year long. Our outreach team launched its first tick-bite prevention campaign in December, highlighting how to prevent tick bites with the appropriate attire - long sleeves and long pants. The campaign includes ads with Spanish newspapers, audio ads with local radio stations, and digital banner ads on their websites.





Don't let a tick make you sick

WWW.SCCVECTOR.ORG

PROTECT YOURSELF YEAR-ROUND WEAR LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS WHEN HIKING



Don't let a tick make you sick

PROTECT YOURSELF YEAR-ROUND WEAR LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS WHEN HIKING




WWW.SCCVECTOR.ORG

No dejes que te enferme una garrapata

PROTÉGETE TODO EL AÑO USA MANGAS LARGAS Y PANTALONES CUANDO VAYAS DE EXCURSIÓN



WWW.SCCVECTOR.ORG





STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Education

In December, our staff participated in several educational webinars focused on the review of pesticide application equipment and calibration for non-agricultural applications, springtime household pests, use and removal of personal protective equipment, delusional infestations, and innovations in storm water management.

An additional webinar series, hosted by the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, was also provided to staff. These trainings focused on new educational resources for bed bug prevention and management in multi-unit housing, long-term pest reductions, a review of California's pesticide regulations, and technology to control *Aedes aegypti* - experiences in Florida and plans for California.

MISSION

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, abate mosquitoes, and assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury, to humans in Santa Clara County



AMERICAN DOG TICK - *DERMACENTOR VARIABILIS*

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