

ZOONEWS FOR KITSAP VETS

A seasonal report on zoonotic disease trends and news of interest

Summer 2013

PREVENTION PARTNERS from Beth Lipton, DVM MPH

Ticks and Lyme disease, mosquitoes and West Nile virus, deer mice and hantavirus, bats and rabies: these vectors and diseases are connected to our environment, our pets and our homes. The veterinary community has an important role to play in tracking and monitoring these diseases as well as educating owners about awareness and prevention. In this issue we share some specific ways that you can help prevent disease through your veterinary practice.

BE A PART OF TICK SURVEILLANCE

Common Ticks in Washington	
<i>Ixodes</i> species	<i>Dermacentor</i> species
<i>Ixodes pacificus</i> (Western black-legged tick) □ Main vector for Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Babesiosis on the West Coast	<i>Dermacentor variabilis</i> (American dog tick) □ Can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
<i>Ixodes spinipalpis</i> (no common name) □ Can transmit Anaplasmosis	<i>Dermacentor andersoni</i> (Rocky Mountain wood tick) □ Can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
<i>Ixodes angustus</i> (sometimes referred to as Coastal squirrel tick) □ Not known to be a vector of any disease	
Both <i>Ixodes</i> and <i>Dermacentor</i> species have been associated with: Tick Paralysis and Tularemia	

Join the party! The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is recruiting veterinarians to participate in a tick surveillance project funded by the CDC. As veterinarians, you are likely to see ticks on a regular basis. You can help DOH locate areas of exposure risk for tick-borne disease by participating in the "Tick Kit" project. Project participants will receive a kit of vials, alcohol, forceps, and reporting forms. In return for submitting tick samples, you will receive the identification and testing results on the ticks you submit. The table on the left shows the tick-borne diseases that will be tested for and the species with which they are associated. For more information and/or to



get your Tick Kit, contact Jo Marie Brauner at 360-236-3064 or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov.

NOTIFIABLE NEWS

During the first few months of 2013, the only reported cases of notifiable zoonotic conditions in Kitsap County have been two suspected exposures to rabies (see table on right). These suspected exposures may or may not have resulted in post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), depending on the patient's decision to follow through with prophylaxis. Other cases of notifiable zoonotic diseases occurring in WA in 2013 include three human cases and one animal case of *Cryptococcus gattii*, two human cases of Lyme disease, one rabies-positive bat, and several suspected exposures to rabies.

REPORT NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS TO KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH 24/7

During business hours call 360-337-5235. After hours call the Regional Duty Officer at 360-415-2005 or 911.

Selected Notifiable Conditions (# of cases)

	Kitsap County		Washington State	
	Yearly average 2010-12	Jan-Apr 2013	Yearly average 2010-12	Jan-Apr 2013
Human Cases:				
Brucellosis	0	0	0	0
<i>Cryptococcus gattii</i>	0	0	4	3
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome	0	0	2	0
Leptospirosis	0	0	0.7	0
Lyme disease	0.7	0	17	2
Plague	0	0	0	0
Psittacosis	0	0	0	0
Q Fever	0	0	5	0
Tularemia	0	0	4	0
Rabies suspected exposures	7	2	181	24
West Nile Virus	0	0	15	0
Animal Surveillance:				
Positive rabies (only bats tested)	0.3	0	11	1
<i>Cryptococcus gattii</i>	0	0	10	1
West Nile Virus: mammals	0	0	0	0
West Nile Virus: birds	0	0	1	0
West Nile Virus: mosquitoes	0	0	45	0

Note: 2013 cases are preliminary and case counts may change as reports are finalized.



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WARMER WEATHER MEANS MORE CRITTER CONTACT

When people leave windows or doors opened and spend more time outdoors, bats or other wild animals may come inside. This is also the time of year when people clean out garages, sheds, or other areas where wild animals may have been. Visible droppings, nests, dead rodents or bats are signs of animals that can carry dangerous diseases. Pets who come into contact with these animals or their waste may pose risks to themselves as well as their owners.

Bats are the only animal in WA known to be endemic with rabies and bats with rabies have been found across the state. While rabies is only in about 1% of all bats, bats interacting with humans tend to be sick or injured, and, of those, about 5-10% are rabid. In 2012, nine rabid bats were identified in different counties. When owners are updating their pet's rabies vaccination remind them:



- Not to touch bats.
- To call the Health District if they find a bat in their living space or if they have any direct contact with a bat. We can help determine whether there has been a possible exposure to rabies, and if necessary, we can advise them on how to safely capture a bat so it can be tested.
- To "bat proof" their home to prevent them from entering in the first place.
- To keep all their pets up to date on rabies vaccination.

West Nile Virus (WNV), transmitted by a bite from an infected mosquito, causes illness in people, birds, horses, and other mammals. Dead birds may be the first sign that WNV is circulating in a community. WA residents can submit dead bird reports to the updated online reporting system at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/ehs/odbrs/>. 2012 CDC data indicate that 5,674 human cases of WNV disease occurred in 48 states (excluding Alaska & Hawaii), resulting in 286 deaths. Last year in WA, two people acquired WNV in-state and two more were likely exposed outside the state. Most people bitten by a WNV-infected mosquito won't get sick. Some may develop mild symptoms such as fever or headache that go away without treatment. People with weak immune systems and those over 50 years old are more likely to develop serious illness, which may include meningitis or encephalitis. Find ways to prevent mosquito contact at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/WestNileVirus.aspx>.

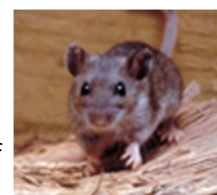


Baylisascaris infection is caused by a roundworm found in raccoons and can infect people as well as a variety of other animals, including dogs. Dogs may be infected but not show symptoms. Encourage your owners to de-worm their pets under your supervision and educate them about avoiding contact with pet feces. Human infections are rare, but can be severe if the parasites invade the eye (ocular larva migrans), organs (visceral larva migrans) or the brain (neural larva migrans). *Baylisascaris* infection can be prevented by avoiding contact with raccoons and their feces. Remind owners not to keep, feed, or adopt wild animals as pets. For ways to discourage raccoons from living in and around the home, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/baylisascaris/prevent.html>.



Hantavirus can cause fatal disease.

Each year, one to three WA residents contract hantavirus pulmonary syndrome and about one-third of those die. Last year, two people developed the disease and both died. Deer mice spread the virus through their urine, saliva, and droppings. Humans may be exposed when they breath contaminated dust after disturbing rodent droppings or nests, or by living or working in rodent-infested areas. While the illness is more common in eastern WA, cases have occurred throughout the state. To help prevent hantavirus, keep rodents out of your home, garage, and other buildings. Avoid sweeping and vacuuming in areas where rodents have been. Spray 10% bleach on rodent-contaminated areas, allowing it to soak in for at least 10 minutes before carefully wiping up and disposing of the mess.



IT'S USEFUL! Remember to bookmark the National Association of Public Health Veterinarians website: <http://www.nasphv.org/>. The site has multiple compendia and recommendation documents, including new zoonotic influenza resources. Find information about H3N2v (there were 309 cases in 12 states during 2012) and its prevention during the upcoming agricultural fair season. Other compendia include: Animal Rabies, Animal Contact, Veterinary Standard Precautions, and Psittacosis and Chlamydiosis, as well as the Model Infection Control Plan for Veterinary Practices.