

**Jefferson County Public Health
West Nile Virus (WNV) and Zoonoses
Newsletter # 2
June 25, 2009**

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 1 human case of WNV fever from South Dakota:

For updates during the 2009 season visit the CDC and USGS websites at
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/surv&control07Maps.htm>

http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_us_human.html

WNV COLORADO

Mosquito surveillance and testing in Colorado officially began on June 1, 2009. There have not been any reported human cases.

Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) has posted 117 tests results from across Colorado and there has been one positive WNV mosquito pool from the Fort Collins area.

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/Zoonosis/wnv/index.html>

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Mosquito Surveillance: Ottertail Environmental continues to conduct larval surveillance and control and adult mosquito surveillance. They are monitoring and inspecting "mosquito breeding sites" throughout the county and will continue this process into the month of September.

During the past week, our contractor conducted mosquito trapping at 11 locations in the county. The trapping yielded a total of 341 mosquitoes with 34 Culex mosquitoes. To date 6 pools of culex mosquitoes have been submitted for testing from Jefferson County and none of them have tested positive for WNV.

During the past week there were 454 larval habitat site surveillance inspections and 91 of those sites were treated with larvicide. The wet and cooler weather this spring have slowed mosquito activity but as the season progresses into the warmer months the number of mosquitoes will increase so we will continue to remind everyone to:

- Use insect repellent for **ALL** outdoor activities. **Use DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus**, (Follow The Label Directions Carefully).
- **At Dawn and Dusk** dress in long sleeves and pants when outdoors and be sure to cover feet and ankles.
- **DRAIN** and **EMPTY** all containers (toys, kiddie pools, flowerpots, buckets) in your yards because mosquitoes carrying WNV can bite at anytime and anywhere, even in your own yards. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clean and running freely.
- Check your home to make sure all windows and doors have screens and are in good condition. This will reduce the chance of mosquitoes and bats gaining entry into your home.
- For additional information on repellents and on how to protect you and your family around home go to <http://health.jeffco.us> and go to WNV under animal borne diseases.

Mosquito Complaint Hotline:

Ottertail Environmental operates a toll free telephone line for citizen reports and concerns, that number is 1-888-774-2161 and locally the local number is 303 273-2878.

RABIES IN COLORADO

Since January 1, 2009, a total of 14 laboratory confirmed cases of skunk rabies have been reported from the following counties: Morgan (6), Yuma (4), Lincoln (1), Kiowa (1), Kit Carson (1) and El Paso (1). The most recent case of skunk rabies occurred in northeastern El Paso County and warrants a heightened awareness on the part of animal control officers and veterinarians of the expansion of skunk rabies westward from the eastern plains. The rabid El Paso County skunk exposed two dogs which were immediately revaccinated and home quarantined.

Current rabies vaccination of domestic animals is of utmost importance, especially in eastern Colorado, and owners should seek veterinary recommendation concerning rabies vaccination of livestock as well. Any skunk suspected of rabies or that has potentially had contact with people or domestic animals should be euthanized and tested for rabies. Testing is restricted to those skunks that have had contact with people, domestic animals or livestock or are exhibiting strange behavior such as being out during the day, attacking animals or inanimate objects, exhibiting other aggressive behavior or motor control problems.

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCDHE has tested 22 animals for rabies so far in 2009 with three of those being bats. None of animals tested thus far have tested positive for rabies. Bats historically have been the most common carriers of rabies in Colorado so everyone should remember not to approach or touch bats especially if they are seen during the day and/or acting strange.

To prevent possible rabies exposure to you or your pets remember to keep your pets (cats, dogs, and ferrets) up-to-date on their vaccinations. Do not handle wild animals and instruct your children not to approach wild animals. Keep bats out of your home by sealing all openings and keep screens (in good condition) on all doors and windows.

PLAGUE UPDATE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

A cat belonging to a Westminster family was treated for a "routine" abscess, accompanied by fever, on June 10, at a local veterinary clinic. A sample of the abscess was sent to the CDPHE lab and was confirmed positive for plague by the state on Friday, June 12. The owners were notified by the veterinary clinic on the same day and advised to seek preventive treatment for themselves against plague. Jefferson County Public Health was notified on 6/15/2009 after the owner's residence was confirmed to be in Jefferson County.

Potential exposures included the veterinarian and two technician staff. Exposed family members included the parents, one adult child, and one 11 year old child, who frequently slept with the cat. All veterinary staff reported wearing gloves when treating the cat and were instructed to monitor their own temperature for any evidence of fever for a period of 7 days. Each family member had direct contact with the cat and none reported wearing gloves when treating the cat's abscess. All were treated with doxycycline and similarly advised to monitor for fever for a period of 7 days. In addition, the family was asked to inspect two additional cats and two dogs for any evidence of flea infestation and to apply appropriate contact flea control products to them as necessary. All who were potentially exposed continue to be healthy at this time.

The owners of the ill cat reported it to be the only one of their three cats that routinely wanders and hunts, frequenting nearby Standley Lake and dam - an area where prairie dog colonies have been seen in large numbers in the past. Jefferson County Public Health staff investigated the areas nearby the house, approximately two blocks from the entrance to Standley Lake and bordered by a dry green belt/irrigation ditch. The east side of Standley Lake has a number of drainage ways made of rock and cement and most of the land is covered in thick brush and grass. Prairie dog colonies were observed on the west side of the lake but there were no colonies close to the house. No dead rodents or burrow holes large enough for flea collection were observed.

Jefferson County Public Health is working to notify veterinarians and to remind residents in the area on the risks of plague.

For Additional Information on

WNV and other animal-borne diseases visit our web site at <http://health.jeffco.us> or contact dvolkel@jeffco.us or jdale@jeffco.us