

**Jefferson County Public Health  
Zoonosis and West Nile Virus (WNV)  
Newsletter # 4  
August 2, 2012  
ZONOSIS**

**RABIES IN COLORADO**

January 1 – July 20, 2012  
Lab Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals

| County     | Bat | Skunk | Fox | Other                 | Total |
|------------|-----|-------|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| Archuleta  | 2   |       |     |                       | 2     |
| Bent       |     | 2     |     | 1-cow                 | 3     |
| Boulder    | 10  |       |     |                       | 10    |
| Chaffee    | 1   |       |     |                       | 1     |
| Cheyenne   |     |       |     | 1-cat                 | 1     |
| Denver     | 5   |       |     |                       | 5     |
| El Paso    | 1   |       |     |                       | 1     |
| Jefferson  | 7   |       |     |                       | 7     |
| Kiowa      |     | 2     | 1   |                       | 3     |
| Kit Carson |     | 1     |     |                       | 1     |
| Larimer    | 6   | 22    |     | 1-bison,<br>1-raccoon | 30    |
| Las Animas | 1   |       |     |                       | 1     |
| Morgan     |     | 2     |     |                       | 2     |
| Otero      |     | 1     |     |                       | 1     |
| Pueblo     | 7   | 16    | 2   |                       | 25    |
| Weld       | 4   | 10    | 1   |                       | 15    |
| Totals     | 44  | 56    | 4   | 4                     | 108   |

[http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/rabies/lab\\_positive\\_animals\\_2012.pdf](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/rabies/lab_positive_animals_2012.pdf)

**RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**

JCPH has tested 100 animals for rabies so far this year that include 44 bats, 16 skunks, and 6 raccoons. Seven bats have tested positive for rabies. Historically bats have been the common carrier of rabies in Colorado but because of the approaching skunk rabies JCPH encourages everyone to have their domestic pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets) and livestock vaccinated for rabies. Any unvaccinated domestic pets or livestock that come in contact with a known or suspected animal infected with rabies will need to be euthanized or placed under a 180 day quarantine in a secure facility such as a veterinary clinic. Save yourself financial and emotional stress by always keeping your domestic pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets) and livestock vaccinated for rabies.

A large number of the bats tested this year were found inside people's homes. Everyone should make sure that all windows and doors have screens in good condition and seal all other possible entry ways into your home like fireplaces and utilities (electrical, cable and water). Opening doors and windows without screens invites insects and bats into your home and possibly exposing your family and pets to WNV and rabies.

In addition to rabies vaccinations for pets and livestock, there are additional precautions to prevent possible exposure to rabies:

- Never feed, touch, or handle wild animals.
- Educated your children to observe wildlife from a safe distance.
- Do not leave pet food or livestock feed in areas accessible to wildlife.
- Maintain control of your pets by keeping cats indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.
- Spay or neuter your pets to reduce the number of unwanted or stray animals in your community.
- Call your local animal control office to remove stray animals from your neighborhood or Jefferson County Animal Control at 303-271-5070.
- Call the Colorado Division of Wildlife at (303)297-1192 if you have problems with wild animals.

## WNV

### WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 241 human cases of WNV. Alabama (4), Arizona (3), Arkansas (3), California (9), Florida (1), Georgia (3), Illinois (2), Iowa (1), Kansas (3), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (6), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (28), Missouri (1), Nebraska (2), New Jersey (1), New York (1), Ohio (2), Oklahoma (17), South Dakota (5), and Texas (145):

For updates during the WNV season visit the CDC and USGS websites at

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/surv&control.htm>

[http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv\\_us\\_human.html](http://diseasemaps.usgs.gov/wnv_us_human.html)

### WNV COLORADO

The first two human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) in Colorado for the 2012 season have been reported by Fremont and Delta counties. Onset of symptoms for both patients was in mid July. In addition, three blood donors tested positive from Mesa, Montrose, and Weld counties. All three positive blood donors are currently being investigated by local public health officials to determine whether the blood donors have remained asymptomatic.

Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory has reported three WNV positive horses in Colorado in 2012, from Fremont, Delta, and Weld counties. All three horses had onset in mid July. None of the horses were currently vaccinated for WNV. The horse from Weld County had to be euthanized due to poor prognosis.

Mosquito trap counts from sentinel zones around the state remain relatively low with 777 pooled mosquito samples tested as of July 27 with 31 samples testing positive. This compares to 1059 mosquito pools submitted by this time in 2011, which was a mild transmission year

### WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Beginning in 2011, any standing water that has the potential to breed mosquitoes became the responsibility of the property owner, meaning they must provide all WNV monitoring and control activities on their property. This applies to all cities, parks, special districts, and private property in the county.

Eliminating standing water is the most effective way to stop mosquito breeding. If the water can not be eliminated, the installation of an aerator to keep the water flowing is the next best step. If this is not possible, clean the edges of your pond of grass, moss, and bushes to eliminate mosquito larval development sites.

The last and final step that should be considered is biological control using an environmental friendly larvicide, such as BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) throughout the summer. This will kill the mosquitoes before they have a chance to hatch and fly. These types of larvicides can be purchased over the internet, from a local home improvement sites or you may contact contractors listed in the yellow pages under "pests." Always follow the label instructions.

Because there will not be any mosquito larval surveillance or control during the WNV season JCPH strongly encourages everyone to follow the recommendations listed below:

- Use **DEET** insect repellent for **ALL** outdoor activities (even out to get the mail). Additional insect repellents available are **Picaridin and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus**, (Always follow Label Directions Carefully).
- **At Dawn and Dusk** - outdoor activities should be limited, because it is at these times that mosquitoes most active.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors and be sure to cover feet and ankles if you have outdoor activities.
- **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 and keep your doors closed to prevent mosquitoes and bats from coming into your home.
- For additional information from repellents to how to protect you and your family around home go to <http://health.jeffco.us> and go to West Nile Virus under animal borne diseases.

**For More Information** on Zoonosis and WNV visit our web site at <http://health.jeffco.us>

You may also contact the Jefferson County Public Health Zoonoses Program:

David Volkel: [dvolkel@jeffco.us](mailto:dvolkel@jeffco.us) 303-271-5730