Jefferson County Public Health Zoonosis and West Nile Virus (WNV) Newsletter # 3 July 20, 2012 ZOONOSIS

RABIES IN COLORADO

January 1 – July 12, 2012

Lab Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals

County	Bat	Skunk	Fox	Other	Total
Archuleta	2				2
Bent		2		1-cow	3
Boulder	8				8
Cheyenne				1-cat	1
Denver	4				4
El Paso	1				1
Jefferson	5				5
Kiowa		2	1		3
Kit Carson		1			1
Larimer	5	20		1-bison	26
Las Animas	1				1
Morgan		2			2
Otero		1			1
Pueblo	6	16	2		24
Weld	4	10	1		15
Totals	36	54	4	3	97

http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/rabies/lab positive animals 2012.pdf

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCPH has had 74 animals tested for rabies so far this year that include 31 bats, 11 skunks, and 6 raccoons. Five 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 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.

Of the 31 bats tested thus far in 2012 over half of them have been found inside people's homes. Everyone should make sure all their windows and doors have screens that are in good condition and seal all other possible entry ways into your home like fireplaces and utilities (electrical, cable and water). Propping open doors and windows without screens invites insects and bats into your home.

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

- Do not feed, touch, or handle wild animals.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone.
- 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.

PLAGUE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

A colony of prairie dogs has died off in northern Jefferson County in the City of Westminster near Highway 36 and 104th Avenue. The area has been posted with warning signs and citizens are reminded to take simple precautions to avoid exposure. Stay on the designated paths while walking or jogging through the

area. Avoid contact with any species of wild rodents, especially sick or dead rodents at home and in parks and recreational areas. Dogs and cats should be controlled or confined so they cannot prey on infected rodents and then bring the disease home. Pet owners who live close to rodent populations should use flea control products recommended by their veterinarian. Controlling fleas on pets will prevent the transfer of fleas to humans. If these reasonable precautions are taken, the probability of contracting plague is extremely low. People should not directly handle any dead rodents they find and should keep their pets away from dead rodents. If a dead rodent is found, do not handle the animal directly. Use a shovel and gloves and place the carcass in a plastic bag and dispose of the rodent in the trash.

WNV

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 25 human cases of WNV. Arizona (2), California (1), Kentucky (1), Louisiana (4), Minnesota (1), Mississippi (3), Oklahoma (2), and Texas (11):

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

WNV COLORADO

There have been 354 mosquito pools submitted from throughout the state. There have been positive WNV pools from the following counties. Adams (1), Boulder (2), Delta (8), Larimer (2), Weld (1). No human WNV cases have been reported so far in 2012.

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 the breeding sites for mosquito larvae.

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."

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 repellant for ALL outdoor activities (even out to get the mail). Additional insect
 repellants 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, kiddy 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 WNV 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 303-271-5730