

**Jefferson County Public Health
Zoonosis and West Nile Virus (WNV)
Newsletter # 7
September 19, 2012**

RABIES

RABIES IN COLORADO

January 1 – September 14, 2012
Lab Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals

County	Bat	Skunk	Fox	Other	Total
Arapahoe	1				1
Archuleta	2				2
Bent		2		1-cow	3
Boulder	18				18
Chaffee	2				2
Cheyenne				1-cat	1
Denver	12				12
El Paso	3				3
Fremont	1				1
Jefferson	11				11
Kiowa		2	1		3
Kit Carson		1			1
Larimer	12	28		2-bison, 1-raccoon	43
La Plata	1				1
Las Animas	1				1
Logan		1			1
Morgan		2			2
Otero		1			1
Pueblo	9	16	2		27
Teller	1				1
Weld	8	17	1	1-raccoon	27
Totals	82	70	4	6	162

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-DCEED/CBON/1251607766329>

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCPH has had 130 animals tested for rabies thus far this year that include 63 bats, 21 skunks, and 6 raccoons with eleven bats testing 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 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.

Bats found in people's homes still make up the majority of bats that are submitted for rabies testing. 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.
- Educate 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 city 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.

World Rabies Day is September 28

Protect Your Family and Your Pets!

Rabies, a deadly yet preventable viral disease of mammals is usually transmitted through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies cases in animals have been on the increase in Colorado and everyone is reminded that vaccinating pets and livestock is the most effective way to prevent rabies.

- The [Foothills Animal Shelter](#) provides low cost vaccinations as well as links to other vaccination clinics throughout the county.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Kids Page on Rabies](#)
- [JCPH Rabies brochure](#)

Get your animals vaccinated against rabies! Learn how to protect yourself and your family on our [zoonosis page](#).

PLAGUE

PLAGUE IN COLORADO

On September 7, 2012 a domestic cat living in Black Hawk, Gilpin County tested positive for plague. The cat was seen by a local veterinary clinic with a high fever and an enlarged lymph node. The attending vet sent a lymph node aspirate to the CDPHE Laboratory which tested positive for plague.

PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID PLAGUE EXPOSURE

- Avoid contact with all sick and dead rodents and rabbits. Prairie dog colonies that suddenly are not active may also be due to plague activity in the area.
- Use an insect repellent for all outdoor activities.
- DO NOT ever touch a dead wild animal. Do not approach or pick-up wildlife.
- Keep your pets from roaming and hunting and talk to your veterinarian about using an appropriate flea control product.
- Sick pets should be examined promptly by a veterinarian.
- If you hunt or trap rabbits or carnivorous wild animals, such as coyotes and bobcats, protect your hands and face while skinning or handling these animals. Fresh pelts may be treated with flea powder.
- Bites from wild carnivores and from cats and dogs have caused human plague. Such animals may be infected, carry the bacteria in their mouths or may transport infective fleas.
- DO NOT feed or entice any rodent or rabbit species into your yard, back porch, or patio.
- Eliminate rodent habitat, such as piles of lumber, broken cement, trash and weeds around your home or recreational cabin.
- Make sure that houses and outbuildings are as rodent-proof as possible. Keep foundations in good repair and eliminate overhanging trees from roof and windows.
- When outdoors, minimize exposure in rodent-infested areas. Do not catch, play with, or attempt to hand feed wild rodents.

WNV

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 3,063 human cases of WNV with 134 deaths. Alabama (20), Arizona (48), Arkansas (39), California (126), Connecticut (12), Delaware (1), District of Columbia (2), Florida (41), Georgia (37), Idaho (11), Illinois (94), Indiana (47), Iowa (11), Kansas (26), Kentucky (6), Louisiana (147), Maryland (30), Massachusetts (14), Michigan (159), Minnesota (59), Mississippi (172), Missouri (12), Montana (3), New Hampshire (1), Nebraska (64), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (22), New Mexico (28), New York (52), North Carolina (5), North Dakota (70), Ohio (79), Oklahoma (138), Oregon (1), Pennsylvania (18), Rhode Island (1), South Carolina (18), South Dakota (158), Tennessee (19), Texas (1225), Utah (3), Virginia (9), Washington (3), West Virginia (3), Wisconsin (23), and Wyoming (6):

The same 5 states continue to have the highest numbers with almost 60% of the cases coming from Texas with 1225 and 30 deaths, Mississippi 172, South Dakota 158, Oklahoma 138, and Louisiana 147.

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

As of September 14, 2012 the CDPHE is reporting 75 cases of human West Nile virus (WNV): Adams (6), Alamosa (1), Arapahoe (2), Boulder (1), Broomfield (2), Delta (19), Denver (4), Douglas (1), El Paso (1), Fremont (5), La Plata (2), Larimer (5), Mesa (8), Montrose (13 with 2 deaths), Morgan (1), Prowers (1), and Weld (3). There have been two deaths reported from Montrose County.

A total of 1,698 pooled *Culex* species mosquitoes and 33 equine specimens have been submitted for testing as of September 14, 2012. Of these, 209 mosquitoes and 9 equine specimens have tested positive for WNV. Jefferson County submitted 15 mosquito pools during the summer and none of the pools tested positive for WNV.

For additional information on WNV in Colorado, including maps of WNV activity in Colorado, please visit:

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

While there have been no reported cases in Jefferson County thus far the infection numbers from the rest of Colorado and across the country show that WNV is still a public health concern and everyone should remain vigilant and continue to practice the 5 "Ds".

- Always 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).
- **Dawn and Dusk are the times that mosquitoes are most active** so limiting outdoor activities at these times is a good practice.
- **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 always keep your doors closed to prevent mosquitoes and bats from coming into your home.

For More Information on Rabies, Plague, and WNV visit our web site at

http://jeffco.us/health/health_T111_R52.htm

You may also contact the Jefferson County Public Health Zoonoses Program at David Volkel: dvolkel@jeffco.us or 303-271-5730