# Jefferson County Public Health Zoonosis and West Nile Virus (WNV) Newsletter # 1 July 3, 2013 ZOONOSIS

### **RABIES IN COLORADO**

January 1 – June 28, 2013 Lab Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals

County	Bat	Skunk	Fox	Other	Total
Adams	1	3			4
Arapahoe	1				1
Archuleta	1				1
Bent		1			1
Boulder	5	3			8
Denver	3				3
Jefferson	1				1
Larimer	2	26	1 Fox	1 Horse	32
				2 raccoon	
Logan		14		1 Horse	16
				1 cat	
Morgan		6			6
Otero		1			1
Phillips		5			5
Pueblo	2				2
Sedgwick		2			2
Washington				1 cat	1
Weld		8		1 Horse	9
Totals	16	69	1	7	93

# **RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY**

JCPH has had 59 animals tested for rabies so far this year that include 10 bats, 7 skunks, and 13 raccoons. One bat has tested positive for rabies and two dogs there were exposed to the bat. 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 valuable livestock vaccinated for rabies.

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.

# HANTAVIRUS PULMONARY SYNDROME (HPS)

As the weather warms and people spend more time outdoors and begin their annual spring cleaning projects everyone should keep in mind the following:

HPS is a serious respiratory disease caused by a virus (Hantavirus). Hantavirus is carried by wild rodents, particularly deer mice, and is present in their droppings (feces), urine and saliva. These dried droppings or urine can be stirred up in dust and breathed in by people. People may get Hantavirus when they breathe in air contaminated by the virus. Hantavirus has not been shown to infect other kinds of animals, such as dogs, cats or farm animals. The disease is not contagious and does not spread from human to human.

Symptoms: The incubation period (time between exposure and appearance of symptoms) varies widely, but ranges from 1 to 6 weeks, with an average of 2-3 weeks. First symptoms of HPS include fever, headache, and muscle pain, severe abdominal, joint and lower back pain, nausea and vomiting. A cough and shortness of breath usually develops 1 to 5 days after the onset of symptoms. The primary symptom of HPS is difficulty in breathing due to fluid build-up in the lungs. This can quickly progress to respiratory failure.

Preventing Hantavirus: The best way to prevent the risk of Hantavirus infection is to control the presence of rodents in and around the home. This includes sealing up rodent entry holes or gaps; trapping mice and rats; and, being careful not to create food sources for the rodents, i.e. keeping yard clean and putting away pet food. Hantavirus is often encountered when cleaning vacated sheds, cabins or other enclosed areas, so it is especially important that areas where rodents have been are cleaned cautiously and carefully. Areas should not be swept or vacuumed as this can stir up dust. Instead, use gloves and thoroughly wet contaminated areas with a bleach and water solution or household disinfectant. Once wet, contaminated materials can be taken up with damp towel and then mopped or sponged with bleach solution or household disinfectant. Contaminated gloves should be cleaned and disinfected before taking them off. After taking off the clean gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water.

#### WNV

# **WNV NATIONAL**

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 10 human cases of WNV fever California (1), Mississippi (5), South Dakota (1), Tennessee (1) and Texas (2):

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 227 mosquito pools submitted from throughout the state. There have been positive WNV pools from the following counties. Adams (1), Jefferson (1), Larimer (1), Larimer (4), Mesa (9). No human WNV cases have been posted by the CDPHE so far in 2013.

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

### **WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY**

Jefferson County had its first positive mosquito pool for WNV this past week.

In past years, standing water on properties throughout the County has been evaluated by the Jefferson County WNV contractor for the presence of mosquito larvae and treated if mosquito larvae were found. However, beginning in 2011, any standing water that has the potential to breed mosquitoes is 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.

Because there will not be any mosquito larval surveillance or control during the 2013 season JCPH strongly encourages everyone to follow the 4 "Ds" 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. This will reduce the chance of mosquitoes and bats gaining entry into your home.
- For additional information from repellents to how to protect you and your family around home go to <a href="http://jeffco.us/public-health/healty-environments/animal-borne-disease/">http://jeffco.us/public-health/healty-environments/animal-borne-disease/</a> and go to WNV.

**For Information** on other Zoonosis concerns visit our web site listed above or contact David Volkel at <a href="mailto:dvolkel@jeffco.us">dvolkel@jeffco.us</a> or 303-271-5730.