

**Jefferson County Public Health
Zoonosis and West Nile Virus (WNV)
Newsletter # 4
August 16, 2013
ZONOSIS**

RABIES IN COLORADO

January 1 – August 9, 2013
Lab Confirmed Rabies Positive Animals

County	Bat	Skunk	Other Wildlife	Domestic	Total
Adams	1	3			4
Arapahoe	1				1
Archuleta	1				1
Bent		1			1
Boulder	7	6			13
Denver	3				3
Elbert	1				1
El Paso			2 Fox		2
Grand	1				1
Gunnison	1				1
Jefferson	4				4
Larimer	4	33	4 Fox 3 raccoon	1 Horse 1 cat	46
Logan		14		1 Horse 1 cat	16
Mesa	1				1
Morgan		6			6
Otero		1			1
Phillips		5			5
Pueblo	4				4
Sedgwick		3			3
Washington				1 cat	1
Weld	3	11		1 Horse 1 cow	16
Yuma		2			2
Totals	32	85	9	7	133

RABIES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

JCPH has tested 94 animals for rabies so far this year that include 28 bats, 11 skunks, and 17 raccoons. Four bats have tested positive for rabies. The possible migration of skunk rabies into Jefferson County is always a concern so JCPH strongly encourages everyone to have their domestic pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets) and valuable livestock vaccinated for rabies. Everyone should check their home to make sure all windows and doors have screens that are in good condition. This will reduce the chance of bats gaining entry into your home.

- Do not touch, feed, 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 at all times 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 or encounter injured wildlife.

TULAREMIA IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) has received confirmation that a rabbit in the area of South Table Mountain and Denver West Parkway has died from Tularemia. Tularemia is an infectious disease caused by *Francisella tularensis*, a bacterium. Though an uncommon disease in Colorado, about 200 human cases of tularemia are reported each year in the United States. Cases have been reported in every state except Hawaii; however, most cases are reported in rural areas of south-central states (Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Tennessee). The frequency of reported cases has decreased in the last 50 years and there has been a shift from winter disease (typically from exposure to rabbits during hunting) to summer disease (more likely caused by tick and deer fly bites).

Prevention

- DO NOT feed or entice any rodent or rabbit species into your yard, back porch or patio
- Eliminate rodent harborage 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
- Avoid contact with all sick and dead rodents and rabbits. Look for the presence of blow flies or dead animal smell as evidence of animal die-offs. Report such areas to local or state health departments or to the appropriate campground office
- While hiking, prevent insect bites by using insect repellent containing DEET on your skin, and treat pants, socks, shoe tops, arms and legs with insect repellants containing permethrin.
- Conduct "tick checks" every two to three hours if spending a lot of time outdoors where ticks are plentiful. All ticks attached to the body should be removed immediately. Using a pair of tweezers, slowly pull the tick straight out, no twisting, and then wash hands thoroughly after removal.
- If you hunt or trap rabbits, protect your hands with rubber, plastic, or latex gloves while skinning or handling these animals. Wash your hands using soap and warm water after handling animal carcasses.
- Be sure to cook wild rodent and rabbit meat food thoroughly before eating.
- Note any change in the behavior of your pets (especially rodents, rabbits, and hares) or livestock, and consult a veterinarian if they develop unusual symptoms. Do not handle suspiciously sick pets without gloves and face protection.
- Consult a physician if sudden unexplained illness occurs 3 to 5 days after activities in the outdoors.

Summary

By following the above reasonable precautions, the probability of contracting tularemia is extremely low. Illness from tularemia can be treated successfully and cured if it is diagnosed early in its course. Prevention is important, as tularemia cannot be eliminated from our natural environment. JCPH will continue its surveillance of rodent populations, and requests that citizens report any unusual rodent die-offs.

WNV

WNV NATIONAL

Outside of Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and United States Geological Survey (USGS) have posted 152 human cases of WNV: Alabama (1), Arizona (8), California (18), Georgia (2), Idaho (3), Indiana (1), Iowa (3), Kansas (1), Louisiana (7), Michigan (1), Minnesota (18), Mississippi (12), Nebraska (4), Nevada (7), New Mexico (3), New York (2), North Dakota (13), South Dakota (35), Tennessee (1), Texas (8), Washington (1), Wisconsin (1), and Wyoming (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

As of August 12, 2013 the CDPHE is reporting 20 human cases from the following counties: Adams (2), Boulder (2), Broomfield (1), Delta County (5), Larimer (8), Prowers (1), and Weld (1).

There have been 1640 mosquito pools submitted from throughout the state and there have been positive WNV pools from the following counties. Adams (11), Arapahoe (2), Boulder (49), Delta (4), Garfield (4), Jefferson (4), Larimer (113), Mesa (32), Morgan (7), Prowers (2), Pueblo (2), and Weld (41).

WNV JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County has had four positive mosquito pools for WNV.

Since 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. This summer appears to be on track for a more active WNV season so everyone should continue to be vigilant in their efforts to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites.

Because Jefferson County will not be conducting mosquito larval surveillance or control during the 2013 season JCPH strongly encourages everyone to follow the 4 "Ds" listed below:

- **Always use DEET** insect repellent for outdoor activities (even out to get the mail or work in your garden). Additional insect repellents available are **Picaridin and Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus**, (Always follow the Label Directions Carefully).
- **At Dawn and Dusk** - outdoor activities should be limited, because these are the times when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors and be sure to cover feet and ankles if you have outdoor activities to reduce the amount of exposed skin.
- **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 that 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 <http://jeffco.us/public-health/healthy-environments/animal-borne-disease/> and go to West Nile Virus.

For Information on other Zoonosis concerns visit our web site listed above or contact David Volkel at dvolkel@jeffco.us or 303-271-5730.