**One Health News Bits**

 **January 13, 2013**

[**Salmonella prompts dog-treat recall**](http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/pets/Pet-treats-recalled-for-salamonella-.html)

Carolina Prime Pet has voluntarily recalled Priority Total Pet Care All Natural Bullstrips because one lot tested positive for Salmonella. The bacteria can cause illness in pets and people who handle the product. (11/25) <http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/pets/Pet-treats-recalled-for-salamonella-.html>

[**Experts stress importance of valley fever research**](http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2012/11/24/2667797/valley-fever-takes-its-toll-on.html)

The fungal disease coccidioidomycosis, or valley fever, has been documented in dogs, cats, cattle, llamas and sea otters, as well as humans, and at one point, up to 6% of dogs in Arizona were infected, according to estimates. About 150,000 people contract valley fever annually in the U.S., and 3,000 people died from it between 1990 and 2008. Researchers said money for vaccine research is scarce but essential for people and animals. "The veterinary side of things is absolutely vital for development of knowledge," said physician Demosthenes Pappagianis, a valley fever expert. (11/25) <http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2012/11/24/2667797/valley-fever-takes-its-toll-on.html>

[**Schmallenberg Livestock Virus reported in 16 European countries**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-23/schmallenberg-livestock-virus-reported-in-16-european-countries.html)

The Schmallenberg livestock virus, which caused birth defects in thousands of sheep and cattle in Europe this year, has been detected in 16 countries to date, the European Food Safety Authority reported. “SBV is continuing to spread in new areas of Europe, and it is likely that new SBV cases will be observed in southern and eastern regions of Europe in 2013,” the EFSA wrote. (11/23) <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-23/schmallenberg-livestock-virus-reported-in-16-european-countries.html>

[**Large animal veterinarians safeguard public health**](http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/250203/)

A paucity of food animal veterinarians in rural areas could adversely impact food safety and public health because these professionals work on the front lines of zoonotic illnesses. According to the AVMA, 17% of veterinarians are working in food animal medicine, and the nationwide shortage is expected to worsen. Long hours, the difficulty of paying off educational debt and smaller rural populations are some of the factors behind the shortage, but those in the field say veterinarians who choose food animal medicine do so because they love the lifestyle and rural America. (11/26) <http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/250203/>

[**Avian pox : Great tit disease spread to UK by insects**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20425314)

Great tit disease was first found in south-east England in 2006, but has spread rapidly around the country. It is a form of avian pox and causes large growths on birds' beaks and eyes. "Our results show that this new strain... significantly reduces the survival of wild great tits and has particularly large effects on the survival of juvenile birds," said Dr Shelly Lachish, from the Edward Grey Institute at the University of Oxford. Although the disease can pass from bird to bird, scientists think the spread is due to an insect vector, like the mosquito, that crossed the English Channel with help from man or wind.

 (11/21) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20425314>

[**Emergence of a new coronavirus**](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/update_20121130/en/index.html)

Over the past two months, WHO has received reports of nine cases of human infection with a novel coronavirus. Thus far, the cases reported have come from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. All patients were severely ill, and five have died. The two clusters (Saudi Arabia, Jordan) raise the possibility of limited human-to-human transmission or, alternatively, exposure to a common source. Ongoing investigation may or may not be able to distinguish between these possibilities. (11/23) <http://www.promedmail.org/> and <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/update_20121130/en/index.html>

[**Deadly superbugs invade U.S. healthcare facilities**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/29/bacteria-deadly-hospital-infection/1727667/)

A new family of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, known as Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), is raising concerns across the medical community because of its ability to cause infections that defy even the strongest antibiotics. The antibiotic resistance is spread by plasmids that can move between different species of bacteria, creating yet new, drug-defying bugs. Death rates among patients with CRE infections can be about 40%, far worse than other, better-known health care infections such as MRSA or C-Diff, which have plagued hospitals and nursing homes for decades. There are also growing concerns that CRE could make its way beyond health facilities and into the general community. (11/29) <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/29/bacteria-deadly-hospital-infection/1727667/>

[**Concern exists for fracking operations to contaminate food supply**](http://truth-out.org/news/item/13058-why-are-cows-tails-dropping-off)

People in metropolitan NYC are concerned that fracking in NY could contaminate its locally produced food supply. Although there is a moratorium on fracking in NY, farmers and consumers have looked at other communities negatively impacted by fracking and are investing in land away from the Marcellus Shale, testing their water preemptively and having plans to buy food elsewhere in case of the lift on the moratorium. Although there is only one peer-reviewed report suggesting a link between fracking and illness in food animals, in which the authors compiled case studies of twenty-four farmers in six shale-gas states whose livestock experienced neurological, reproductive and acute gastrointestinal problems, many consumers aren’t waiting for hard data to tell them what is or isn’t safe. For them, the perception of pollution is just as bad as the real thing. Researchers blame the lack of hard data on the dearth of funding for fracking research and the industry’s use of nondisclosure agreements. (11/30) <http://truth-out.org/news/item/13058-why-are-cows-tails-dropping-off>

[**Public health experts work to predict next zoonotic pandemic**](http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96934/HEALTH-Predicting-the-next-zoonotic-pandemic)

Public health experts predict that another zoonotic pandemic is on the horizon and say it is simply a question of when and where it surfaces. "The continuing effect of the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a reminder of the risk of zoonotic pathogens spreading from their natural reservoirs to man," veterinarian William Karesh wrote in a series of articles in the Lancet focusing on zoonoses. Organizations are working to improve detection of emerging diseases, but there are many challenges, including the increasing risk of transmission as the growing urban population brings people into closer contact with animals. (11/30) <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/96934/HEALTH-Predicting-the-next-zoonotic-pandemic>

[**Child infected with H3N2 without evidence of exposure to livestock**](http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121201/NEWS/312010033/Eastern-Iowa-boy-sickened-by-rare-influenza-strain?News&nclick_check=1)

An eastern Iowa boy recently came down with H3N2, a relatively rare strain of flu normally associated with pigs. However, the boy had no exposure to livestock and apparently caught it from another person. The child did not become seriously ill, and nobody around the boy was sickened, either. Health officials track such incidents closely because of the possibility that new strains of animal flu could mutate into versions that would be easily transmissible from person to person. (11/30) <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121201/NEWS/312010033/Eastern-Iowa-boy-sickened-by-rare-influenza-strain?News&nclick_check=1>

[**Service dogs improve the life of wounded UK service people**](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/hero-dogs-super-canines-who-1469300)

Man's best friend is playing a heroic part in helping Britain's injured service people. As well as aiding the blind, these super dogs are providing invaluable support for those who have lost the use of their limbs. The animals have been trained to have a human touch so they can push buttons, open doors, pass and fetch items, carry out a range of vital household tasks and get help in case of an emergency. All have been teamed up with their dogs by charity Canine Partners, which has helped 11 other former servicemen and women - with more to come. (12/2) <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/hero-dogs-super-canines-who-1469300>

[**Prion disease may mirror other neurological ailments**](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324020804578151291509136144.html?mod=dist_smartbrief)

Scientists suspect that crippling diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's disease may have a pathology similar to that of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. While BSE is notorious for its insidious march, spreading its prions among normal cells and destroying their ability to function, the other diseases weren't thought to follow a similar pattern. However, University of Pennsylvania researchers have demonstrated that a synthetic Parkinson's protein introduced to mice spread much like the prions of BSE. The group is now trying to identify antibody therapies that could halt the spread of deformed proteins. (12/3) <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324020804578151291509136144.html?mod=dist_smartbrief>

[**Brazil announces positive BSE test**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-09/japan-suspends-beef-imports-from-brazil-on-mad-cow-disease.html)

Brazil’s Ministry of Agriculture said Dec. 7 that tests on a 13-year-old cow that died in Brazil’s Parana state in 2010 showed it carried the “causing agent of bovine spongiform encephalopathy.” Japan, Asia’s largest beef buyer, suspended imports from Brazil yesterday after confirmation of the positive BSE test. Brazil has shipped $4.2 billion worth of the meat through September this year, up 5 percent from a year earlier, according to information on the exporter’s association website. (12/10) <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-09/japan-suspends-beef-imports-from-brazil-on-mad-cow-disease.html>

[**Nebraska suffers worst EHD outbreak in decades**](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/deer-population-reeling-from-disease-outbreak/article_d8536108-92b6-568a-a9f8-8571e1b4f499.html)

Nebraska deer are in the throes of the worst outbreak of epizootic hemorrhagic disease in decades, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, with some 6,000 carcasses reported this year, compared with about 10 in 2011 and a 10-year high of several hundred. The disease is transmitted to deer via biting midges, which are thriving amid the state's severe drought. (12/10) <http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/deer-population-reeling-from-disease-outbreak/article_d8536108-92b6-568a-a9f8-8571e1b4f499.html>

[**Manatees: Sentinels of ecosystem changes**](http://phys.org/news/2012-10-manatees-quality-health-marine-ecosystems.html)

A decade-long study of manatees off the coast of Belize monitored the animals' response to increased tourism in the area, documenting population numbers, fat measurements, hematology, biochemistry, and fecal and urine analyses. Such studies can help uncover why diseases have emerged or re-emerged in marine animals such as dolphins and turtles, according to researcher and veterinarian Alonso Aguirre. "Manatees are the proverbial 'canaries in the mineshaft,' as they serve as indicators of their environment and may reflect the overall health of marine ecosystems," Dr. Aguirre said. (10/2)

[**Legalization of medical marijuana spurs uptick in dog poisonings**](http://denver.cbslocal.com/2012/10/01/colorado-vets-see-spike-in-cases-of-stoner-dogs/)

The number of dogs being poisoned by marijuana has quadrupled since medical marijuana became legal in Colorado, according to a study by veterinarian Stacy Meola. Most dogs are exposed by ingesting products containing marijuana. Symptoms in dogs include staggering, lethargy and sensitivity to light. While most dogs recover with treatment, some cases are fatal, Dr. Meola said. "We need people to realize it is potentially toxic and potentially fatal to their pets," said veterinarian Debbie Van Pelt. (10/1)

[**Asian countries conclude rabies conference**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2012/10/05/asian-meeting-rabies/1615237/)

Representatives from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia wrapped up a five-day meeting last week aimed at reducing the prevalence of rabies, a disease that kills tens of thousands of people worldwide every year. Coordinating efforts among paramedics and veterinarians was one focus of the meeting, according to an Indonesian health official. In 2010, vaccination of 200,000 dogs for rabies in Bali led to a decrease in cases. (10/5)

[**Man bit by Calif. Bat dies of rabies while working abroad**](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/10/contra-costa-county-man-dies-from-rabies.html)

A 34-year-old man died in Switzerland over the summer from rabies contracted from a bat in Contra Costa County -– the first death rabies death traced to the county in nearly 20 years, officials announced Friday. The man, whose name has not been released, became ill before leaving the United States to work overseas. He died in a hospital in July, according to Contra Costa Health Services. (10/5)

[**Work with horses helps rehabilitate inmates, too**](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-10-05/news/bs-md-inmate-horse-farm-20121005_1_second-chances-farm-inmates-life-skills)

The Second Chances Farm program offers a second chance to retired racing horses as well as the inmates who work with them. "At first when I tried to lead the horse, I would pull and pull, but it never went anywhere," said recovering addict Edward Rybolt, who turned to crime to support his habit. "But you can't move a 1,000-pound animal. I had to change my tactics, be gentle." In caring for the animals, inmates learn patience and other crucial skills to prepare them for their return to society. (10/5)

[**Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease considered in woman’s death**](http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2012/sep/28/womans-brain-tissue-to-be-tested-for-disease/)

Disease investigators have sent a brain tissue sample of a deceased 32-year-old Spokane woman to a national research lab to be tested for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, an incurable condition that has multiple variants, including one called mad cow. An autopsy of Amanda Greenwalt Wheaton noted that CJD was a potential diagnosis. She died Aug. 24. (9/28)

[**Invasive toad species threatens pets in Fla.**](http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/story/19770739/2012/10/09/beware-toxic-toads-lethal-to-pets)

The Bufo marinus toad, a species introduced to the U.S. to control insect populations in sugar cane fields, is a threat to pets in the Temple Terrace, Fla., area, and officials are urging people to be on the lookout. Upon exposure, the toxin "can get into [an animal's] system very rapidly and cause seizures, coma or death," said veterinarian Paul Langston. Death can occur within minutes in smaller animals, but larger pets are at risk, too. (10/9)

[**Research documents signs of PTSH in dogs after nuclear disaster**](http://www.latimes.com/news/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-disaster-dogs-20121008%2C0%2C4200158.story)

Dogs left behind after an earthquake damaged the nuclear reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi power station in Japan last year are showing signs of severe stress that may point to a canine version of post-traumatic stress disorder, researcher Miho Nagasawa wrote in a paper published this week. Dogs rescued in the area had elevated levels of stress hormones and demonstrated trouble learning and forming attachments, which persisted even after the animals received care and training. (10/11)

[**Pa. officials confirm state’s first case of CWD**](http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/first-case-of-a-fatal-wildlife-disease-found-in-pa-657194/)

Amid the early hunting season, Pennsylvania wildlife officials have confirmed the state's first case of chronic wasting disease in a white-tailed deer during routine testing at a commercial deer farm. There's no known treatment for the fatal neurological disease, which is transmitted through bodily fluids and contaminated soil. There is no evidence the disease affects humans, but the CDC recommends against consumption of meat from afflicted animals. (10/12)

[**Veterinarian urges horse owners to vaccinate for West Nile**](http://www.ky3.com/news/ky3-veterinarians-warn-of-west-nile-virus-in-horses-other-animals-20121011%2C0%2C4871002.story)

Veterinarians have been diagnosing cases of West Nile virus in horses, and among them is veterinarian Scott Espy of Marshfield, Mo., who has handled two cases in the past few weeks. Dr. Espy urges owners to vaccinate against the fatal disease. "We had a pretty good outbreak about seven years ago and everybody vaccinated at that point. Well, since we vaccinated, the disease kind of went away, so people stopped vaccinating," Dr. Espy says. (10/11)

[**Yosemite workers may hold clues to recent hantavirus outbreak**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-usa-hantavirus-yosemitebre89f01t-20121015%2C0%2C88468.story)

Up to 2,500 employees at Yosemite National Park will take part in a voluntary study to help determine why the hantavirus outbreak at the park this summer affected park visitors but not workers. A questionnaire will be administered and blood samples collected as part of the study. Eight of the nine park tourists who became infected with hantavirus had stayed in the park's Curry Village tent cabins. Three people died as a result of the infection. (10/15)

[**Monoclonal antibodies show promise in treating Ebola, study finds**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121015152013.htm)

A new Ebola virus study resulting from a widespread scientific collaboration has shown promising preliminary results, preventing disease in infected nonhuman primates using monoclonal antibodies. In this week's online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the research team describes a proof-of-concept for using a "cocktail" of monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, to prevent lethal disease in rhesus macaques. (10/15)

[**Bird genome provides insight into retrovirus evolution**](http://phys.org/news/2012-10-genomic-hitchhikers-birds-evolution-viruses.html)

The genomes of birds are riddled with DNA sequences from viruses, according to a study to be published on October 16 in mBio, the online open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology. Analysis of these viral sequences, known as endogenous retroviruses (ERVs), can provide insights into how both hosts and viruses have evolved over the eons. (10/16)

[**Tension over role of service dogs for veterans**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g4YPmlhMuRF4mQHTUtC-cW0nHZAA?docId=0b24ee87109d42a39414450232c148d6)

The mix of small organizations and more traditional groups working to provide veterans with service dogs has created "a Wild West-type atmosphere in the service dog world," according to this article. Complicating the situation is a Department of Veterans Affairs decision not to cover the cost of service animals for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries until research on the benefits can be finished. The VA requires service dogs be trained by group with accreditation, something small operations struggle with. (10/10) <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g4YPmlhMuRF4mQHTUtC-cW0nHZAA?docId=0b24ee87109d42a39414450232c148d6>

[**Dog treats recalled due to possible Salmonella contamination**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/pet-food-company-recalls-dog-treats-that-could-be-contaminated-with-salmonella/2012/10/13/8c50134e-1582-11e2-9a39-1f5a7f6fe945_story.html)

Pet food company Nature's Recipe has voluntarily recalled its Nature's Recipe Oven Baked Biscuits with Real Chicken due to possible salmonella contamination. According to company officials, no illnesses have been reported, but they advise owners to discard the treats and seek medical attention for themselves or their pets if symptoms occur. (10/13) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/pet-food-company-recalls-dog-treats-that-could-be-contaminated-with-salmonella/2012/10/13/8c50134e-1582-11e2-9a39-1f5a7f6fe945_story.html>

[**Summer 2012 one of worst for mosquito-borne illness in Massachusetts**](http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1272739290/Summer-2012-one-of-the-worst-for-mosquito-borne-illness?zc_p=0)

In Massachusetts this year, West Nile virus infected 22 people and killed one while Eastern equine encephalitis sickened seven people and killed three, making 2012 a historic year for the mosquito-borne diseases, according to state public health veterinarian Catherine Brown. Numerous agencies are working together to monitor mosquito populations and carry out targeted mosquito spraying, and in the future, even more collaboration will be needed, Dr. Brown said. (10/13) <http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/x1272739290/Summer-2012-one-of-the-worst-for-mosquito-borne-illness?zc_p=0>

[**Horses provide respite for wounded soldier**s](http://duncanbanner.com/local/x688425459/Equine-therapy-helping-wounded-warriors)

Wounded veterans are getting some much-needed physical therapy and emotional support at the Spirithorse Chisholm Trail Therapy Center in Oklahoma. About 45 soldiers from Fort Sill visit the ranch weekly to work with the horses. Some have been so inspired by their time with the horses that they volunteer to return to help with therapy sessions the center holds for children with special needs. (10/13) <http://duncanbanner.com/local/x688425459/Equine-therapy-helping-wounded-warriors>

[**Normal prion form improves brain function, study suggests**](http://www.mnn.com/health/fitness-well-being/stories/normal-form-of-mad-cow-disease-may-actually-make-you-smarter)

Scientists have discovered that the same protein that causes the severe neurological disease can improve brain function when in its normal form. By learning to manipulate this protein, the normal form could potentially be used to make people smarter or as a cure for Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s. (10/16) <http://www.mnn.com/health/fitness-well-being/stories/normal-form-of-mad-cow-disease-may-actually-make-you-smarter>

[**Bobcats closer to urban areas more likely to carry parasites**](http://www.collegian.com/2012/10/16/csu-study-shows-bobcats-make-good-hosts-for-parasitic-visitors/)

Bobcats are more likely to contract Giardia, Toxoplasma and cryptosporidium closer to urban areas, according to a five-year study co-authored by Sue VandeWoude, an associate dean in CSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and other researchers. “(Cryptosporidium and Giardia) were more prevalent in the fecal samples we had from bobcats when they were closer to urban centers,” VandeWoude said, “and the typing we were able to do on some of the Giardia samples suggested it came from people.” (10/16) <http://www.collegian.com/2012/10/16/csu-study-shows-bobcats-make-good-hosts-for-parasitic-visitors/>

[**GM Mice Put To Work As Living, Furry Hidden Landmine Detectors**](http://www.science20.com/curiousity_killed_fruit_fly/gm_mice_put_work_living_furry_hidden_landmine_detectors-95229)

Researchers at Hunter College in New York began recruiting genetically modified mice that are extremely sensitive to the smell of DNT, a close relative of TNT, to sniff out landmines. The research team has postulated that a chip implanted under the skin of the genetically modified mice, dubbed MousSensors, can be used to monitor the MouSensor’s behavior and report any changes that occur when it is in the proximity of high levels of TNT. Although the MouSensors have yet to be tested in the field, D’Hulst hopes that the MouSensors will be ready to use in the field within five years. (10/15) <http://www.science20.com/curiousity_killed_fruit_fly/gm_mice_put_work_living_furry_hidden_landmine_detectors-95229>

[**New cattle traceability rules in Texas take effect 2013**](http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2012/oct/21/updates-new-rules-address-tagging-health/)

New traceability rules that go into effect Jan. 1 will have an impact on the cattle industry, the Texas Animal Health Commission says. The rules are built around two tenets: official animal identification and documentation of interstate transportation. Improved traceability is aimed at streamlining responses to animal disease outbreaks. In Texas, official tagging will likely be done during other routine procedures, such as deworming, said state veterinarian Dee Ellis, and it could cost up to $4.68 per animal. Veterinarian-issued health certificates were used to estimate the cost of interstate travel documentation, which is likely to cost up to $7.50 per animal. (10/21) <http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2012/oct/21/updates-new-rules-address-tagging-health/>

[**Three-fold increase in Arkansas rabies cases**](http://www.katv.com/story/19871433/rabies-cases-up-in-arkansas)

The number of animals that have tested positive for rabies in the state is up to 141 animals from a normal of 47 cases. According to the Arkansas Department of Health, so far this year there have been 115 skunks, 21 bats, 2 cows and 3 dogs that tested positive for rabies. Last year there were 60 rabid animal cases. (10/20) <http://www.katv.com/story/19871433/rabies-cases-up-in-arkansas>