**One Health News Bits**

**Catch Up – July / August 2012**

[**Environmental forces affect emergence, spread of zoonotic disease**](http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/jul/23/environmental-changes-rift-valley-lassa-fevers)

Africa's changing patterns of land use, agriculture, urbanization and industry foster the emergence and spread of zoonotic illnesses such as Rift Valley fever and Lassa virus, according to veterinary epidemiologist Delia Grace, who points out that such diseases can easily spread to neighboring regions. Establishing a better understanding of these factors will enable public health officials to educate the public on disease prevention and help stop the spread of these and other zoonotic diseases, Dr. Grace writes. (7/23)

[**37 people infected with salmonella from contact with baby chicks**](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/07/another-hatchery-outbreak-37-ill-in-11-state-salmonella-outbreak/#.UCbSYJ1lQf4)

A hatchery in Idaho has been linked to 37 cases of Salmonella hadar in people across 11 states, according to the CDC. Recently, an Ohio hatchery was the source of 144 salmonella cases in 26 states and a Missouri hatchery caused 66 salmonella infections across 20 states. Of those infected, 35% to 37% were age 10 or younger, the CDC noted in a release on Monday, adding that retailers should provide educational materials to buyers regarding the risks of handling live poultry. (7/23)

[**More than half of N.Y. county’s pets not vaccinated for rabies**](http://pressrepublican.com/0100_news/x1510840234/Survey-shows-pet-owners-skipping-vaccinations)

A survey of pet owners in Clinton County, N.Y., estimates that just over 11,000 of the county's more than 44,000 pets received rabies vaccinations in 2011, despite efforts by veterinarians, state laws requiring vaccinations and regular rabies clinics. Public health officials are working to limit rabies in wild animals, but they say pet vaccination is key to controlling the disease. (7/25)

[**Dog stares down snake, protecting owner, man says**](http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120724/NEWS01/120724003/Dog-saves-Clarksville-man-from-snake-)

During a routine stroll on a friend’s farmland off Peachers Mill Road, a 70-year-old man found himself face-to-face with a copperhead snake. Luckily, he had a fellow veteran with him: Onex, a black Labrador not afraid of a fight. (7/24)

[**Humans contract H3N2 from pigs at Ind. fair**](http://heraldargus.com/articles/2012/07/25/news/local/doc500f38aaaf87f288598925.txt)

According to Indiana public health officials, four people contracted the H3N2 influenza strain from infected pigs at a La Porte fair. There have been 17 cases of H3N2 in humans documented nationwide, six of which occurred in Indiana. (7/25)

[**Cats more likely to trigger allergies than dogs**](http://www.myhealthnewsdaily.com/2890-cat-worse-dogs-allergies-pets.html)

According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, about 10% of people have pet-induced allergies, and cats are twice as likely to cause symptoms as dogs. Experts say intact, male cats register the highest itch-inducing protein, called Fel d 1, a protein so small and light that it remains airborne for hours and has been found in the absence of cats, even in the Arctic. (7/26)

[**New influenza strain contracted from birds explains seal deaths**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2181438/Forget-bird-flu--seal-flu-prove-deadly-humans.html)

Scientists investigating the deaths of 162 young seals along the New England coast last year identified a new strain of avian influenza, H3N8, in tissues from five of the dead animals. Testing revealed that H3N8 developed from an avian influenza strain present in waterfowl since 2002, suggesting recent transmission between waterfowl and seals. "There is a concern that we have a new mammalian-transmissible virus to which humans haven't been exposed yet," said lead researcher Dr. Anne Moscona of Weill Cornell Medical College. (7/31)

[**Researchers examines how canines detect low blood sugar**](http://www.indystar.com/article/20120730/PROMO/120730033/Eli-Lilly-searching-canine-clues-sniffing-out-diabetic-attacks-?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CIndyStar.com)

It's long been known that some dogs can detect low blood sugar in humans, and Eli Lilly & Co. medical director and pediatric endocrinologist Dr. Dana Hardin has designed a study to identify how they do so. Dr. Hardin, who is also a volunteer with the Indiana Canine Assistant Network, will conduct a study to help identify the substance that dogs respond to when pinpointing low blood sugar in humans. (7/30)

[**Hope for frogs being decimated by fungal disease**](http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1112665540/london-zoo-mountain-chicken-frogs-comeback/)

Critically endangered frogs rescued from possible extinction at the hands of a deadly fungus have successfully bred for the first time at the London Zoo, various media outlets reported Sunday. According to Telegraph Science Correspondent Richard Gray, the mountain chicken frogs have been rescued from the island of Montserrat, where they had been threatened by the spread of the Chytrid fungus. (7/30)

[**Officials test animals after Hawaiian pig worker contracts H3N2v influenza strain**](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/164529766.html)

n adult Maui resident who works with pigs contracted Hawaii's first confirmed case of an unusual variant flu strain that has been detected in six mainland states in the last year, the state Health Department said Tuesday. The state Agriculture Department plans to take nasal swabs of a "couple of herds" on Maui looking for evidence of the H3N2v virus that has been found in 17 other patients on the mainland, said state Veterinarian Dr. James Foppoli.  (7/31)

[**Spike in wildlife rabies sparks warning for residents**](http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20120731/NEWS01/307310033/Officials-worried-about-health-pets-livestock-spike-terrestrial-rabies-cases?gcheck=1&nclick_check=1)

Officials in a Colorado county have seen a spike in terrestrial rabies, and they're reminding owners to have their pets properly vaccinated against the virus by a licensed veterinarian. Livestock rabies vaccines exist for sheep, cattle and horses, and although officials note many livestock producers do not vaccinate animals, they say proactive steps may be especially important in large animals that regularly interact with humans, such as those used in 4-H. (8/1)

[**Puppy exposes 12 people to rabies**](http://www.wsoctv.com/news/news/local/officials-12-people-child-being-treated-rabies-aft/nP7P5/)

Wayne Erwin of Mooresville, NC held a fish fry at his home a few weeks ago with no idea that his puppy was carrying a deadly disease. The puppy, named Penny, had rabies. A week later, she started showing symptoms. A few days later she died.  There's no indication that Penny bit anyone (the most common way rabies can be spread from dogs to humans) but as a precaution 12 people who were at the fish fry, including Erwin, his son and granddaughter, are now all taking rabies shots.  (7/31)

[**Cedar Virus: A Novel Henipavirus isolated from Australian bats**](http://www.csiro.au/en/Portals/Media/New-bat-virus-could-hold-key-to-Hendra-virus.aspx)

The new virus - named 'Cedar' after the Queensland location where it was discovered - is a close relative of the deadly Hendra and Nipah viruses. However, CSIRO's initial studies have discovered one surprising key difference - the Cedar virus does *not*cause illness in several animal species normally susceptible to Hendra and Nipah. This tantalizing difference may help scientists understand how to better manage and control its deadly cousins. See [full article](http://www.plospathogens.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.1002836) (8/3)

[**CDC confirms nine swine flu cases linked to Ohio Fair**](http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/6fb5a34fffe64e10b59f0754ec999efd/OH--County-Fair-Swine-Flu)

[Health](http://www.therepublic.com/search/subject/cc7a76087e4e10048482df092526b43e) officials investigating illnesses linked to a southwest Ohio county fair confirmed a strain of swine flu in nine cases Thursday and said it matches the virus that infected several people recently at an Indiana fair. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed an H3N2 variant flu virus in nine of 10 suspected Ohio cases.  (8/2)

[**Animals, Diseases, and Human Health: Shaping Our Lives Now and in the Future**](http://www.worldvet.org/node/9037)

Animals, Diseases, and Human Health: Shaping Our Lives Now and in the Future presents some of the more common dilemmas at the intersection of human and animal health. Written for a general readership at the college freshman level, the editor has assembled a number of mainly veterinary public health experts who walk readers through 13 chapters from pet allergies to modern animal biotechnology. In addition to infectious diseases common to animals and humans, the book covers issues such as animal abuse and cruelty and the attendant connection to human violence as well as animal hoarding. (8/9)