**One Health News Bits**

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[**Tennessee Outlaws pet turtles as pets**](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2012/08/09/Pet-turtles-now-a-no-no-in-Tennessee/UPI-15281344548181/)

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has stopped issuing permits for keeping turtles as pets in an effort to protect the public from bacteria such as salmonella that may be carried by the animals and to protect the wild turtle population. "It's common sense," said Walter Cook, TWRA captive wildlife coordinator. "It's a public health concern and we have to be responsible."

<http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2012/08/09/Pet-turtles-now-a-no-no-in-Tennessee/UPI-15281344548181/>

(8/7)

[**Infected mosquitoes spread farther afield**](http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/239851/group/News/)

Mosquito-borne Eastern equine encephalitis is showing up in wildlife in northern Minnesota for the first time, and, in Massachusetts, mosquitoes carrying the disease have spread beyond Cape Cod and the southeastern part of the state for the first time this season. The disease can be fatal to animals and humans, and researchers in Minnesota fear that the disease may be responsible for the steep decline in the moose population. (8/10)

[**Livestock shows take H3N2v flu precautions**](http://triblive.com/news/2382475-74/flu-pigs-swine-avoid-farm-butler-shows-centers-control-county#axzz25FvHPRZ2)

Fair livestock officials and veterinarians in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania are taking extra precautions to prevent the spread of a new, milder strain of flu that has sickened about 160 people, according to the CDC. Most of the cases resulted from people coming into contact with pigs, the CDC says. "The bottom line is, it's been proven that with simple hygiene, you can prevent this from happening," said veterinarian Frank Skacel. (8/12)

[**Researchers use GPS to gain feline insights**](http://www.dailycamera.com/science-environment/ci_21286438/csu-study-gives-boulder-cat-owners-glimpse-lives-gps?IADID=Search-www.dailycamera.com-www.dailycamera.com)

Colorado State University researchers plan to outfit 30 Boulder-area domestic cats with GPS units to study how far the animals will venture into open space and the risks they encounter on their journeys. "We know that mountain lions, coyotes and bobcats are using urban areas," said lead researcher Ashley Gramza, "but we really don't know how far cats are venturing out." (8/10)

[**Some in the Amazon survive rabies exposure, study finds**](http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/08/13/medical-discovery-some-peruvian-amazon-natives-survive-rabies-without-treatment-128580)

Some residents in two Peruvian Amazon villages with frequent rabies outbreaks have apparently developed immunity through exposure to the virus, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Despite finding rabies virus neutralizing antibodies among some persons, we do not consider such antibody-positive persons to be protected against rabies," said lead author Amy Gilbert. (8/13)

[**Study: Butterflies near Fukushima site exhibit mutations**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-19245818)

After radiation was released from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor accident in Japan last year, scientists are seeing more mutations in the legs, wings and antennae of butterflies in the area, according to a new study published in the journal Scientific Reports. The researchers found the severe changes while studying 144 butterflies that would have been in the larval stage during the accident. (8/13)

[**Year’s first West Nile case in horse in N.J. is reported**](http://www.nj.com/sunbeam-news/index.ssf/2012/08/salem_county_horse_tests_posit.html)

A horse in Salem County has tested positive for West Nile Virus, the first and only reported equine case of the disease in all of New Jersey so far this year, state officials said. According to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, an 11-year-old quarter horse mare from Salem County tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV) after the animal began showing signs of illness on Aug. 4. (8/12)

[**New Mass. Law bans convicted abusers from working with animals**](http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/08/new_animal_rights_law_prompted.html)

Anyone convicted of animal cruelty won't be able to work with animals in Massachusetts, under a new law signed by Gov. Deval Patrick. The law applies to facilities including veterinary practices, pet shops, shelters and grooming salons. (8/13)

[**Dogs go to work detecting unsafe water**](http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120814-NEWS-208140337)

Logan and Sable are canines trained to sniff out bacteria, a talent they used recently to determine whether water from the Norris Brook in New Hampshire was contaminated with E. coli. The dogs work for Environmental Canine Services, and the Environmental Protection Agency has classified their talents as a valid method for detecting contamination. (8/14)

[**Newfound snake virus resembles deadly arenaviruses**](http://www.livescience.com/22334-virus-discovery-snake-disease.html)

A California woman's love for her boa constrictor, Larry, led researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, and the Steinhart Aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences to new studies that ultimately uncovered a virus related to Ebola and arenaviruses such as Lassa fever that are deadly to humans. (8/14)

[**CDC reports 693 cases of West Nile virus infection in U.S.**](http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/health/story/2012-08-14/west-nile-virus-mosquito/57057540/1)

The CDC says the spread of the West Nile virus is speeding up, with 693 cases so far this summer nationally. More than half were reported in Texas, where moderate winter temperatures and spring rains boosted the mosquito population, according to an entomologist. (8/14)

[**Hundreds of Mich. Deer die of hemorrhagic virus**](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2012/08/michigan_deer_disease_ehd.html)

Cases of epizootic hemorrhagic disease have killed hundreds of deer in eight Michigan counties this summer. The EHD virus is transmitted by certain biting flies, and cases are on the rise nationwide because of hot, dry conditions, according to the state Department of Natural Resources. (8/16)

[**Yosemite cleans up after hantavirus surfaces**](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/08/yosemite-rare-rodent-borne-disease.html)

Officials believe two people who became infected with hantavirus this summer picked up the disease at Yosemite National Park, bringing California's human hantavirus infection total to four this year. One of the two victims died, while the other is recovering. Officials are cleaning the lodging area where both people may have been exposed, but because the virus is transmitted through rodent feces, it's impossible to eradicate all risk. "It's a wilderness area, and rodents live in the wilderness," said park spokesman Scott Gediman. (8/17)

[**Drought conditions promote anthrax**](http://thetandd.com/business/drought-could-be-factor-in-u-s-anthrax-cases/article_f0b181e6-e8ce-11e1-9716-0019bb2963f4.html)

Anthrax spores multiply during hot and dry weather, and the drought blanketing much of the country increases the risk of anthrax to livestock and humans, experts say. Livestock suffer rapid death from anthrax, and more than 100 animals in Colorado and Texas have succumbed to the infection in the past two weeks. People usually contract anthrax by having contact with an infected animal, and the disease can be fatal without prompt treatment. (8/20)

[**Cat begging for table scraps may have psychological disorder**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/9484841/Cats-that-pester-for-food-could-be-suffering-from-psychological-condition.html)

Researchers at Italy's University of Padua evaluated a cat with food aggression and obsession behaviors and concluded that the cat likely had a psychological condition, not a physical ailment, marking the first documented case of food obsession in a cat. After behavioral therapy for five months, the cat's issues were resolved. (8/19)