

One Health News Bits **8-22-13**

Rabies-infected organ donor had been bitten by raccoons, report reveals

The organ donor whose kidney transmitted rabies to a transplant patient received two raccoon bites for which he was not treated a few months before he became ill and died, according to new data reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Tests verified the recipient contracted rabies from the infected kidney. Three other transplant patients who received organs from the same donor underwent rabies prophylaxis and did not develop rabies. (7/23, 7/24). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://health.usnews.com/health-news/news/articles/2013/07/23/details-emerge-on-rabies-transplant-death>

Ticks migrating north, carrying zoonotic disease

Since 2006, reports of lone star ticks have been steadily increasing in Wisconsin, and University of Wisconsin-Madison entomology professor Susan Paskewitz suspects there may be thousands of the ticks in well-established populations that are able to survive the winter. The tick carries ehrlichiosis, a zoonotic bacterial disease, which may also confer a certain type of beef allergy in rare cases. More research is needed to confirm the beef allergy connection, noted Diep Hoang Johnson, a vector-borne disease epidemiologist with the state Department of Health Services. (7/22). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/health_med_fit/lone-star-tick-showing-up-in-badger-state/article_f26477fb-15aa-59d6-bd05-30dafdc1ebe4.html

Genetic marker for PRRS resistance identified in swine

U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers are working to solve a swine disease that has a major negative effect on the pork industry. USDA scientist Dr. Joan Lunney says Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome, or PRRS, costs U.S. pork producers money and pigs every year. To alleviate the situation, Lunney and her colleagues in Beltsville, Maryland, have discovered a genetic marker that shows which pigs are resistant to the effects of PRRS. The researchers are now trying to find the exact gene that leads to PRRS tolerance in hopes of developing a vaccine and treatment. (7/24) <http://nebraskaradionetwork.com/2013/07/24/scientists-report-progress-in-defeating-swine-disease-prrs/>

Pet dog exposes 5 people to rabies

A pet dog in Texas was euthanized and confirmed to have rabies after it bit several people, exposing five to the virus. Officials believe the dog contracted rabies from feral cats. All five people, including a child, are undergoing rabies prophylaxis. The most recent human case of rabies in the state occurred in a 17-year-old female patient in 2009. (7/24). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/lewisville-flower-mound/headlines/20130723-five-people-in-the-colony-exposed-to-rabies-from-infected-family-dog.ece?nclink_check=1

Study finds MERS may have origins in African bats

Scientists have identified a coronavirus that is more genetically similar to the deadly new Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus than any current virus. They found the new virus in the feces of a South African bat. MERS has killed about 50 of the 90 people known to be infected so far, and scientists think the virus moved from bats to an intermediate animal species and then to humans. (7/24). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/07/130724102726.htm>

Officials close Angeles National Forest campgrounds after finding squirrel carrying plague

The discovery of a plague-infested ground squirrel forced the closure of three campgrounds in the Angeles National Forest Wednesday and prompted health officials to warn the public to take precautions against the disease, Los Angeles county health officials said. Plague is a bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans through the bites of infected fleas, which is why the affected campgrounds and recreational areas were closed as a precaution. (7/23). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20130724/plague-found-in-angeles-national-forest-prompts-campground-closures>

Canine brain tumor advances could provide hope for human patients, too

Petey, a dog with a brain tumor, shows no signs of the glioma a couple of years after veterinarians tried a novel treatment. Veterinarian Simon Platt, a professor of neurology at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, removed Petey's tumor and lavaged the area with a chemotherapy agent in an effort to inhibit further tumor growth. The tumor in dogs is similar to human glioblastomas, rapidly growing, fatal brain tumors diagnosed in some 13,000 Americans every year. "We thought that's great, we can help dogs out," said Dr. Platt. "If that's possible, then we could go to the next step and actually help people out." (7/25) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/killing-canine-brain-tumors/nY3zY/>

Cyanobacteria in blue-green algae threatens dogs and owners

Cyanobacteria has been blamed for the death of a pet in East Hampton, but it could be a threat to people, too. The algae can be toxic to both animals and humans. It has been known to cause liver and nervous system damage, as well as skin, eye, nose, and throat irritation, and inflammation of the respiratory tract, experts said. (7/25). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2013/07/25/bacteria-blamed-for-dogs-death-could-pose-health-hazard-to-humans-as-well/>

Researchers help people "see" like bats

Researchers have created an algorithm that can calculate the way sound echoes through a given space, allowing them to reconstruct the shape of a room using sound alone. The technology could enable blind people to find their way around using bat-like echolocation and could also have applications in architectural acoustics and police work. (7/28). *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.npr.org/2013/07/28/205201838/see-with-sound>

Leptospirosis uptick due to wet conditions

Leptospirosis, a zoonotic bacterial disease carried by wild animals, can be transmitted to pets via exposure to urine and to their owners, and it's particularly problematic in wet conditions. A canine vaccine exists for leptospirosis, although it only confers some protection for some of the 100-plus strains of the bacteria. "The vaccine provides good protection, but like any vaccine, especially one against a bacteria, the immunity is not long-lasting, so annual vaccination is recommended," veterinarian Gary Thompson said. (7/29) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2013/07/29/Flulike-bacteria-sickens-people-and-pets-alike.html>

Livestock transport trucks carry devastating swine virus, too

Veterinary researchers who collected samples from 669 trailers for transporting livestock at seven slaughter facilities in the Midwest found 17% of trucks had trailers contaminated with porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, and contamination was widespread at some sites, with up to 69% of arriving trailers contaminated with the virus that poses a serious threat to young piglets. For each arriving trailer contaminated with PEDV, 1.2 departing trailers carried the virus, according to the research. (7/30) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/usa-pedv-swine-virus-idUSL1N0FZ1EO20130730>

Humans, dogs survive side by side in a war zone

It's illegal to maintain a native animal as a pet in a combat zone, but U.S. troops at Kirkuk Regional Air Base in Iraq quietly did just that after a three-legged dog named Tripod appeared. Her human caregivers believe Tripod protected the base from some attacks, but military animal control personnel tried to trap and kill the dog, according to this account. No fewer than 80 people at the base helped protect Tripod before she got to the U.S., where she's been adopted. "There are many amazing stories of these native dogs fighting side by side with American forces and impacting their lives forever. Let us not forget these incredible four-, or three-legged, friends," writes Andrew Edtl of the Utah Air National Guard. (7/31) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865583865/Loved-by-US-forces-an-Iraqi-dog-brings-hope-amid-war.html>

Child has Ill.'s first known H3N2v swine influenza case this year

The Illinois Department of Public Health announced that a child has developed the H3N2v swine influenza, a strain first seen in swine two years ago that caused four known human infections last year in the state. The child, who reportedly has mild symptoms, was exposed to swine at a county fair late last month. (8/1) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* http://thesouthern.com/news/local/state-and-regional/swine-flu-found-in-illinois/article_9e8bd7b6-faea-11e2-9a85-0019bb2963f4.html

Mass. issues mosquito prevention tips after horse diagnosed with EEE

A horse in Belchertown, Mass., tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis, a

potentially deadly mosquito-borne zoonotic disease, raising the level of EEE threat to critical in the town and to moderate in surrounding areas. State Public Health Veterinarian Catherine Brown said the state is trapping and testing mosquitoes, but she reminded people to take steps to protect themselves. "Today's finding significantly raises our concern for the area. It's important that people in high-risk areas protect themselves from getting bitten by mosquitoes," Dr. Brown said. There were seven human cases of EEE recorded in Massachusetts last year. (7/31) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief*. http://www.lowellsun.com/news/ci_23769067/first-2013-case-eee-mass-found-belchertown-horse

Only known rabies survivor has second close encounter with the deadly virus

Jeanna Giese, a 24-year-old Wisconsin woman who is the only person known to have survived a rabies infection, encountered the virus again when two of her sled-racing huskies bit a bat that later tested positive for rabies. Giese contracted rabies from a bat nine years ago and survived the zoonotic infection thanks to a novel procedure that combined a medically induced coma with other treatments developed by Children's Hospital and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Veterinarian Kim Everson administered booster rabies vaccinations to Giese's dogs, whose vaccines were current. The dogs are under quarantine. (8/2), (8/2) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief*. <http://www.fdlreporter.com/article/20130802/FON0101/308020167/In-an-ironic-twist-dogs-local-rabies-survivor-Jeanna-Giese-exposed-bat-tested-positive-disease?gcheck=1>

Woman suffers case of Lyme disease after brushing tick off her dog

An Ohio woman suffered a case of Lyme disease after she brushed an unattached tick off her dog and awoke the next morning to find the tick embedded in her leg. Luckily for Sarah Landesman, her infection was caught early and cleared with antibiotics. Veterinarians urge owners to protect their dogs from ticks and other insects. "While virtually all infestations of parasites are preventable, estimates indicate that fewer than half the dogs in the country are protected," said veterinarian Chris Carpenter, executive director of the Companion Animal Parasite Council. (8/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief*. <http://www.toledoblade.com/Medical/2013/08/05/Prevention-key-to-avoiding-Lyme-disease.html>

Blood-sucking parasite causes life-threatening shedding in moose

A veterinarian in Norway discovered that deer keds, blood-sucking parasites that mature in the ground and then emerge to attack their hosts, are the cause of worrisome hair loss in Norway's moose. In cold climates, such hair loss is life-threatening, yet it's warming temperatures that seem to be promoting the parasite. (8/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief*. <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/smartnews/2013/08/why-are-norways-moose-balding/>

Pros and cons of allowing pets at work

There are clear benefits to allowing employees to bring pets to work, including a warm, pleasant environment for employees and clients. But it's important to consider downsides, including employees who are distracted by animals or allergies and the risk

of bites. Establishing a written policy that is agreed upon by all workers will help employers protect their businesses from potential liabilities while enjoying the benefits of having animals around. (8/5) http://blogs.findlaw.com/free_enterprise/2013/08/should-you-have-an-employee-pets-policy.html