**One Health News Bits**

**4-14-13**

[**Team targets bacteria delivered by shark bites**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57572167/its-straight-to-the-sharks-mouth-for-treatment-to-aid-bite-victims/)

Physician Robert Borrego and his team at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla., are collecting bacterial samples from sharks' mouths to identify the bacteria that can cause life-threatening infections in shark attack survivors. About two dozen people are attacked by sharks each year in Florida, and Dr. Borrego hopes to determine the best antibiotic regimen for shark-bite victims. (3/1) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-18563_162-57572167/its-straight-to-the-sharks-mouth-for-treatment-to-aid-bite-victims/>

[**Strange blackbird foot disorder perplexes researchers**](http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/mar/03/blackbird-foot-malady-poses-scientific-mystery/)

A mystery illness may be slowly and quietly causing a decline in the common Brewer's blackbird, and red-winged and tricolored blackbirds also appear to be affected. Bird enthusiasts and scientists have observed the strange malady that results in the loss of toes in specimens dating as far back as the 1960s. Potential culprits include viral infections combined with secondary bacterial infections, mites, chronic irritation, caustic chemicals or blood parasites, but none perfectly matches the condition. (3/3) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2013/mar/03/blackbird-foot-malady-poses-scientific-mystery/>

[**Understanding antibiotic-resistant bacteria in pets**](http://www.northjersey.com/community/194443791_Pet_Q.html)

Methicillin-resistant bacteria occur in humans and animals and don't respond to the usual spectrum of antibiotics, writes veterinarian Mary Ann Crawford. The human culprit, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, only occurs in pets as the result of reverse zoonosis, so pets with this bacteria will trigger an investigation into the health of their human companions, Dr. Crawford points out. The methicillin-resistant bacteria of concern in animals is Staphylococcus pseudintermedius, and although it's unusual, transmission to humans can occur, so gloves, hand-washing and hand sanitizer should be used to prevent transmission, Dr. Crawford notes. (3/2) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.northjersey.com/community/194443791_Pet_Q.html>

[**Podcast: Ringworm**](http://www.avmamedia.org/display.asp?sid=510&NAME=Ringworm&utm_source=smartbrief&utm_medium=email)

We play with them. We cuddle with them. We even allow them to sleep in our beds with us. The closeness that exists between us and our pets is a true testament to the human-animal bond. However, having such regular contact with our pets also requires knowledge about potential illnesses that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Of these illnesses, known as zoonotic diseases, ringworm is one of the most common. As a pet owner, what do you need to know about this skin infection? In the latest [AVMA Animal Tracks podcast](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/emgQBXzCwNCidSaDCidmoaCicNWhTT), Dr. Sandy Merchant, a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology and professor of veterinary dermatology at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, discusses ringworm. *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.avmamedia.org/display.asp?sid=510&NAME=Ringworm&utm_source=smartbrief&utm_medium=email>

[**Veterinary medicine’s central role in public health**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joan-c-hendricks-vmd-phd/what-the-world-particular_b_2806181.html)

Veterinarians are known by most as compassionate practitioners of animal medicine, an important role, but veterinarian Joan Hendricks explains that they are also uniquely poised for crucial roles in public health. Veterinarians are the only medical professionals comprehensively trained in comparative medicine and human-animal interactions, she writes, and they have a deep background in infectious disease. This contributes to treatments for humans, solutions to global hunger, improved food safety and production, and surveillance and prevention of potentially devastating infectious diseases. (3/4) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joan-c-hendricks-vmd-phd/what-the-world-particular_b_2806181.html>

[**Monkeys make decisions based on social inference, study suggests**](http://www.nature.com/news/monkeys-stay-away-from-meanies-1.12551)

According to a recent study, capuchin monkeys' social interactions may be partly rooted in a process called social inference, also observed in human infants and chimpanzees. Animals in the study tended to accept treats from people they observed helping others open a jar while avoiding treats offered by those who were able to help but refused. "Explicit refusal to help is a signal that you're dangerous, that you're negative," said developmental psychologist Kiley Hamlin. (3/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.nature.com/news/monkeys-stay-away-from-meanies-1.12551>

[**White-nose syndrome detected in Ill. Bats**](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/fatal-bat-disease-found-in-southern-illinois/article_6d8568cb-630b-5a07-b32c-26a59b3818da.html)

A fatal disease has been discovered in bats in four Illinois counties including Monroe, the state department of natural resources reported recently. The other three counties were LaSalle, Hardin and Pope. Northern long-eared and little brown bats from these counties were collected in February and submitted for testing at state labs, where the disease was confirmed. (3/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/fatal-bat-disease-found-in-southern-illinois/article_6d8568cb-630b-5a07-b32c-26a59b3818da.html>

[**Disease expert weighs in on SARS, emergency preparedness and emerging threats**](http://life.nationalpost.com/2013/03/05/qa-ten-years-later-sars-expert-gets-a-sense-of-deja-vu-from-outbreak-of-new-coronavirus/)

Ten years ago, a new, unnamed disease was spreading out from China to various parts of the world, including Canada. The emergence of SARS — severe acute respiratory syndrome — reminded countries that in a globalized world, diseases move as far and as fast as goods and people. Dr. Margaret Chan was director of health for Hong Kong — a nexus of SARS — during the outbreak and recently spoke about the impact of SARS. (3/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://life.nationalpost.com/2013/03/05/qa-ten-years-later-sars-expert-gets-a-sense-of-deja-vu-from-outbreak-of-new-coronavirus/>

[**Antibiotics: An important tool to protect public health, experts say**](http://southeastfarmpress.com/livestock/antibiotics-remain-important-animal-public-health)

Antibiotics are important for managing animal health and decreasing pain and suffering while helping to prevent foodborne illness, according to members of the Coalition for Animal Health including the AVMA, who recently briefed congressional staffers on the role antibiotics play in protecting animal and human health. Veterinarians Dr. Christine Hoang of the AVMA, Dr. Scott Hurd of Iowa State University and Dr. Rich Carnevale of the Animal Health Institute were among the presenters. (3/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://southeastfarmpress.com/livestock/antibiotics-remain-important-animal-public-health>

[**One health: Bridging humans, animals and the environment**](http://www.chicagonow.com/steve-dales-pet-world/2013/03/one-health-people-and-pets-integrative-medicine/)

Animals and people share the environment and myriad infectious diseases and other health problems, and the AVMA's founding role in the One Health Commission highlights that connection. This story links to a podcast featuring One Health Commission CEO Dr. Roger Mahr, a veterinarian and past president of the AVMA, and Vallie Szymanski, co-founder and executive director of Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness, as they explain the initiative. (3/5) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.chicagonow.com/steve-dales-pet-world/2013/03/one-health-people-and-pets-integrative-medicine/>

[**Study highlights role of amphibian trade in fungus’ spread**](http://phys.org/news/2013-03-deadly-fungus-southeast-asia-amphibian.html)

A recent study detected the fungus Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis on amphibians in Singapore, suggesting commercial trade of amphibians and the American bullfrog in particular could be helping the pathogen spread. The fungus is one of many factors contributing to declines among many amphibian species. "It is in everyone's best interest to eliminate [the disease] from the trade in live animals before both the native amphibian populations of Southeast Asia are affected and before it completely decimates the commercial trade and people are unable to make a living. This is not just about the frogs," said study co-author David Bickford. (3/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://phys.org/news/2013-03-deadly-fungus-southeast-asia-amphibian.html>

[**Eighth person dies from new coronavirus, WHO reports**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-07/world-health-body-reports-eighth-death-from-sars-related-virus.html)

A 69-year-old man in Saudi Arabia died after being infected with a new SARS-related virus, becoming the 14th confirmed case and the eighth death, the World Health Organization said. Preliminary investigations indicated the patient had no contact with previously reported cases of infection with the novel coronavirus, the Geneva-based WHO said in a [statement](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_03_06/en/index.html) on its website yesterday. Seven of the 14 confirmed cases, and five of the eight deaths, have been reported from Saudi Arabia, the United Nations health agency said. (3/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-07/world-health-body-reports-eighth-death-from-sars-related-virus.html>

[**Mo. Public health officials issue rabies alert**](http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Concern-raised-over-SE-Mo-rabies-cases-4332905.php)

Three skunks and a horse have tested positive for rabies in southeast Missouri since the beginning of the year. Rabies cases are rare in the cold-weather months. The Poplar Bluff Daily American Republic reports that the four cases this year equaled the total number of cases in Missouri during the January-February in the previous five years. (3/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Concern-raised-over-SE-Mo-rabies-cases-4332905.php>

[**Prevent illness in pets and people by keeping ticks at bay**](http://triblive.com/lifestyles/health/3466365-74/ticks-tick-applied#axzz2NI3o0FRl)

Some simple tips are listed to help protect individuals, their families, and pets from the deer tick- a pest from over the last decade that are fond of tall grass and leaf litter. With the upcoming outdoor season, it is important to take preventive steps to reduce risk. (3/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://triblive.com/lifestyles/health/3466365-74/ticks-tick-applied#axzz2NI3o0FRl>

[**CDC warning: New coronavirus could reach the U.S.**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/07/us-virus-warning-idUSBRE9261E820130307)

The CDC has put U.S. health care workers on alert for the new and potentially deadly SARS-related coronavirus because research indicates the virus is capable of passing between people. Eight of the 14 people known to have been infected with the virus have died, and officials note that doctors should consider the virus in anyone who develops an unexplained respiratory infection after visiting the Middle East. The CDC has set up a [website](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/emxmBXzCwNCifElLCidmoaCicNYCcf) with resources related to the virus. (3/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/07/us-virus-warning-idUSBRE9261E820130307>

[**Toxin in bee venom kills HIV, researchers say**](http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/bee-venom-could-be-key-to-killing-hiv-say-scientists/article_91e03f3a-8002-532d-9eef-1c8f868309ab.html)

Melittin, the toxic component of bee venom, penetrates HIV and other viruses, essentially killing the pathogens, say researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. They hitched melittin to nanoparticles with molecular stopgaps that prevent damage to healthy cells. Used in a vaginal gel, the toxin could prevent HIV transmission, and researchers hope the findings could be used to treat other infections. (3/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/bee-venom-could-be-key-to-killing-hiv-say-scientists/article_91e03f3a-8002-532d-9eef-1c8f868309ab.html>

[**Uptick in infected raccoons highlights need for dogs to get distemper vaccine**](http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Distemper-outbreak-raises-concerns-4335280.php)

St. Louis County residents are being warned about a serious outbreak of distemper in raccoons in several communities. [Bi-State Wildlife Hotline](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Bi-State+Wildlife+Hotline%22) founder [Angel Wintrode](http://www.seattlepi.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news%2Fscience&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Angel+Wintrode%22) told KMOX Radio that a large number of raccoons with the disease have been euthanized since October. She says that in a normal year, three or four raccoons a month are put down. Now, it's three or four a day. (3/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Distemper-outbreak-raises-concerns-4335280.php>

[**Drought drives high levels of aflatoxin in corn, putting pet food at risk**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/25/us-usa-corn-aflatoxin-idUSBRE91O16B20130225)

High levels of aflatoxin, a by-product of mold, found in bagged dog food on a grocery store shelf in Iowa have highlighted the prevalence of a problematic mold in last year's U.S. corn crop, as state and federal officials work on limiting the food safety concern. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/25/us-usa-corn-aflatoxin-idUSBRE91O16B20130225>

[**Penguin chicks are victims of vampire bats**](http://news.discovery.com/animals/vampire-bats-draw-blood-from-penguin-chicks-130222.htm)A team filming in the Atacama Desert in southern Peru has captured video of vampire bats feeding on penguins. The bats can expose penguin chicks to infectious diseases including rabies and cause blood loss in the birds, harming their health. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://news.discovery.com/animals/vampire-bats-draw-blood-from-penguin-chicks-130222.htm>

[**Iconic lions of Africa under siege**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/elssBXzCwNCicfmDCidmoaCicNmxuV?format=standard)

Lion populations have fallen by 68% in just 50 years, from 100,000 to 35,000 today. Threats to lion existence include decreasing lion habitat, falling numbers of lion prey species, and increasing human-lion conflict. Since lions will attack livestock, pastoralists have turned to poisoning lions en masse. Trophy hunting and lion bone trade for traditional medicine has also posed a threat. Conservation efforts include halting targeted killings, working with local communities to mitigate lion conflict and better protect livestock, and stopping the lion bone trade.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/feb/25/lions-africa-endangered-species-medicine-habitat>

[**New coronavirus: Next deadly pandemic or dead-end virus?**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/elBeBXzCwNCidmqfCidmoaCicNxlxR?format=standard)A newly identified coronavirus that has killed seven of its 13 known victims was rapidly characterized by scientists worldwide who sequenced part of its genome, found it readily infects humans cells and discovered it may respond to medicines used to treat SARS. However, the remaining unanswered questions may be the most important, such as the identity of the reservoir animal and the epidemiology of exposure in humans. "What we know really concerns me, but what we don't know really scares me," said Michael Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/27/us-coronavirus-idUSBRE91Q0MD20130227>

[**Explosive-sniffing dogs look for contraband on people**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/elBeBXzCwNCidmqJCidmoaCicNCmcB?format=standard)Seven and Zelda are bomb-sniffing dogs trained to detect explosives on human beings and track contraband-laden bad guys on the move at Albany International Airport in New York. In most cases, dogs sniff out explosives in stationary objects, so this is a new tactic to foil would-be terrorists. "It's unobtrusive -- the dogs are very, very effective. Their senses are tremendous," said Albany International Airport CEO John O'Donnell. <http://hudsonvalley.ynn.com/content/top_stories/642629/tsa-demonstrates-new-passenger-screening-canines/>

[**One Health- New Interactive Infographic**](http://www.ifahsec.org/one-health-new-interactive-infographic/)

The International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH) has developed a new interactive infographic explaining the one health concept, that human health, animal health and ecosystems are inextricably linked, highlighting the need for all stakeholders to work together to fight against infectious disease.<http://www.ifahsec.org/one-health-new-interactive-infographic/>

[**Scientists searching for clues to the next pandemic**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/emkdBXzCwNCieezvCidmoaCicNtwND?format=standard)  
Anne Rimoin, an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, is studying the zoonotic disease monkeypox in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has found that the disease, which resembles smallpox, is rapidly spreading, and she notes there are many other unknown diseases in the world that pose a serious risk to people. "These diseases are no longer way out in the remote jungles," Rimoin says. "The reason that you want to do disease surveillance is because you want to be able to prevent the next pandemic before it starts." Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=rimoin-video-emerging-epidemics-hunt-monkeypox-congo-river-basin>

[**Feline parasites lurk inside the home, too**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/emkdBXzCwNCieezACidmoaCicNRQWK?format=standard)Cats housed indoors are exposed to parasites, contrary to common belief, writes veterinarian Lorie Huston. Fleas, which carry internal parasites, can infect indoor cats without their owners realizing there is an issue, Dr. Huston writes. Indoor cats are at risk of infection from tapeworms, heartworms and roundworms through exposure to fleas, mosquitoes and rodents, but having regular veterinary care and using veterinarian-approved products labeled for cats can help prevent infection. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.petmd.com/blogs/thedailyvet/lhuston/2013/march/are-indoor-cats-safe-from-parasites>

[**Taxidermy helps owners deal with death of pets**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/emkdBXzCwNCieezCCidmoaCicNlsqu?format=standard)Some people who cannot bear parting with their dogs, cats, turtles and guinea pigs are turning to taxidermists to preserve their pets' bodies. Few taxidermists are willing to preserve pets because owners are quick to spot small imperfections, according to the National Taxidermists Association. Those that do often have long waiting lists and charge upwards of $1,000 for the task. Psychology professor Allen McConnell sees the trend as an extension of humans' close ties to their animals. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <https://secure.forumcomm.com/?publisher_ID=36&article_id=260344&CFID=137857120&CFTOKEN=15807992>

# [Human and animal violence are linked - your March LINK-Letter](http://nationallinkcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/LinkLetter-2013-March.pdf) The National Link Coalition is a multi-disciplinary, collaborative initiative to increase awareness and address public policy, programs and research in species-spanning interconnectedness of different forms of violence. <http://nationallinkcoalition.org/>

[**In tapeworm's genome, scientists find possible target for cure**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXjRCidmoaCicNCkbZ?format=standard)Tapeworms have long plagued humans and animals and confounded researchers since the days of the ancient Greeks. As tapeworm larvae spread through the body, infection can lead to epilepsy, blindness and death in hosts such as dogs, sheep and swine. Now, scientists who have mapped the parasite's genome say they believe drugs that disrupt the tapeworm's ability to use fat and cholesterol taken from the host using special proteins may hold the key to a cure. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-tape-worm-20130312,0,1383213.story>

[**Experts zero in on key protein in search for coronavirus treatment**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXjSCidmoaCicNMIgY?format=standard)A new coronavirus that has infected at least 15 people and killed nine in the past year adheres to the DPP4 cell-surface protein, but diabetes drugs that block the protein aren't effective in stopping the virus, and existing antibodies that block the virus also kill somatic cells, according to new research. It is possible the drugs tested on the virus do not block the portion of the protein where the pathogen adheres, so future research will look more deeply into how the virus attaches. Scientists are also testing a potential vaccine, but it would not be available to humans anytime soon. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-03-13/novartis-and-merck-drugs-don-t-stop-sars-related-virus-in-study>

[**Frozen pet food recalled over Salmonella concerns**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXjTCidmoaCicNYAtB?format=standard)The Minnesota Department of Agriculture announced a recall of certain two-pound packages of frozen Bravo! Raw Food Diet Chicken Blend for Dogs and Cats because of possible Salmonella contamination. Possible symptoms in infected animals include decreased appetite, fever and abdominal discomfort. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://foodpoisoningbulletin.com/2013/bravo-raw-food-diet-pet-food-recalled-for-possible-salmonella/>

[**Time and love help heal war-zone dog's wounds**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXjXCidmoaCicNdPSS?format=standard)Post-traumatic stress disorder among military dogs has gained some recognition, but strays also seem to suffer the effects of a difficult life in a war zone, writes Jessie Knadler, whose soldier husband rescued their dog Solha from Afghanistan. "Right away, I could tell there was something different about this dog," Knadler writes, recounting months of destructive, difficult behavior that seemed to be best explained by the scrappy, dangerous life Solha led as a stray. "All we could give her was time, love, freedom, and lots of exercise and discipline. Is that how to treat canine PTSD? I don't know. But Solha is a different, calmer dog today than she was a year ago." Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/03/13/my-dog-solha-from-afghanistan-with-ptsd.html>

[**Chinese authorities deal with river of dead pigs**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXjZCidmoaCicNjtHG?format=standard)Extreme weather and crude farming practices contributed to the deaths of about 70,000 pigs in Jiaxing, China, leading one farmer to dump thousands of hog carcasses into the Huangpu River, according to this report. Authorities have pulled 6,600 dead pigs from the river, and a water sample tested positive for the common porcine circovirus, which is not believed to pose a risk to humans. Meanwhile, the government is working to address public health concerns such as food safety. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-13/shanghai-retrieves-6-600-dead-pigs-as-farm-confesses-to-dumping.html>

[**Natural population shifts explain flood of sick, injured owls, experts say**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/enmsBXzCwNCigXkaCidmoaCicNonqh?format=standard)

A tough winter in part of North America has forced owls south in search of food. Dead, injured and sick owls are turning up at roadsides, bird feeders, and rehabilitation clinics. Ornithologists call this an "irruption," a natural, cyclical phenomenon that happens when hungry owls that normally winter in northern Canada head south in search of food. These irruptions tend to affect younger owls who are less experienced hunters and don’t know about the dangers of humans, like cars. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.northjersey.com/news/international/197848311_Tough_winter_forces_owls_south_in_hunt_for_food.html>

[**Join the Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders for an upcoming workshop**](http://iom.edu/Activities/Research/NeuroForum/2013-APR-08.aspx?utm_medium=etmail&utm_source=Institute%20of%20Medicine&utm_campaign=03.14.13+Neuro+Forum&utm_content=Forum%20on%20Neuroscience%20and%20Nervous%20System%20Disorders&utm_term=Non-profit) On April 8-9 a public workshop on Accelerating Therapeutic Development for Nervous System Disorders towards First-in-Human Trials will take place. This activity builds on a previous Forum workshop, Improving Translation of Animal Models for Nervous System Disorders, which explored strategies for improving the development process of effective therapies with a focus on translation from animal models to clinical practice. One theme that emerged from this workshop was the need to combine animal models with emerging translational tools and technologies. Following on this theme, topics to be explored in the upcoming workshop include the role of new and emerging tools and technologies in accelerating therapeutic development; opportunities and challenges in neuroscience research for facilitating faster entry of potential treatments into first-in-human trials; avenues for developing integrated strategies that utilize both animal and non-animal models; and mechanisms for integration and proliferation of new tools, technologies, and techniques to facilitate drug development and discovery.The April 8-9 workshop is free and open to the public. Please register here:[http://iom.edu/Activities/Research/NeuroForum/2013-APR-08.aspx](http://click.newsletters.nas.edu/?ju=fe2815767366067a7d1774&ls=fde911777d6c067477177776&m=fefd1276756204&l=fea116727666017d75&s=fe21127472600774731675&jb=ffcf14&t=)

[**Woodson Stresses Importance of Global Health during Budget Crisis**](http://www.health.mil/News_And_Multimedia/News/detail/13-03-18/Woodson_Stresses_Importance_of_Global_Health_during_Budget_Crisis.aspx)Dr. Jonathan Woodson, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, stressed the importance of maintaining U.S. participation in global health initiatives, despite a federal economic crisis. During a panel discussion at a conference hosted by the [Consortium of Universities for Global Health](http://www.health.mil/include/exitwarning.aspx?link=http://www.cugh.org/) in Washington, D.C., March 14, Woodson joined leaders from the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the State Department’s Office of Global Health Diplomacy to discuss ways to continue promoting global health in an age of budget cuts and sequestration. <http://www.health.mil/News_And_Multimedia/News/detail/13-03-18/Woodson_Stresses_Importance_of_Global_Health_during_Budget_Crisis.aspx>

[**Surviving transplant patients treated amid rabies scare**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihArsCidmoaCicNVbmy?format=standard)The three surviving recipients of organs from a 20-year-old man who died of the raccoon rabies virus are being treated and have shown no signs of infection, according to public health officials who made the discovery after a Maryland organ recipient died of the disease. The organ donor's cause of death was recorded as encephalitis, which can be caused by a number of conditions including rabies. "Rabies is very unusual, and it can look like a lot of different things," said Dr. Matthew Kuehnert, director of the CDC's Office of Blood, Organ, and Other Tissue Safety. "I personally can't say I would have been able to make the correct diagnosis had I been there, without knowing what I know now." Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2013/mar/18/us-transplant-rabies-death/>

[**Researchers forecast future areas of concern for influenza**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihArtCidmoaCicNYAtl?format=standard)Researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles, have created a model using records of human and avian influenza outbreaks to predict where on the planet the two types of influenza could mix, sharing genetic material and possibly sparking a pandemic. The model, which looked at the overlap in influenza outbreaks and swine populations, identifies coastal and central China and Egypt's Nile Delta area as some potential hot spots for new strains that may warrant special monitoring. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20130317/UCLA-researchers-predict-hotspots-for-future-outbreaks-of-influenza-virus.aspx>

[**UC Davis debuts veterinary research center**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihAruCidmoaCicNdubM?format=standard)The University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine has opened its new $58.5 million, 76,000-square-foot research facility, designed to bring researchers into an open, collaborative space and facilitate "teams of scientists working to solve complex problems," said veterinary school dean and veterinarian Michael Lairmore. The facility houses pet health researchers, scientists specializing in ecosystem health, the 100K Pathogen Genome Project for food safety and the One Health Center of Expertise. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.sacbee.com/2013/03/16/5267458/uc-davis-vet-school-opens-585.html>

[**Pain pills and more can be poison to pets**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihArwCidmoaCicNrqNE?format=standard)Human medications and supplements pose serious risks to pets, and exposures accounted for many of last year's 180,000 calls to the Animal Poison Control Center. Heart medications are the most commonly eaten pills, said veterinarian Tina Wismer, but there are a host of others, including over-the-counter substances, that can sicken pets. "It only takes one extra-strength naproxen to kill a shih tzu-type dog. Ibuprofen can cause stomach ulcers and kidney failure in dogs and cats, and acetaminophen can actually cause the blood to change so it can't carry oxygen and cause liver failure," Dr. Wismer said. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.wpri.com/dpp/news/12_for_action/pet-poisinings-on-the-rise-from-people-pills>

[**Zoonosis: Avoid this type of human-animal connection**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihArxCidmoaCicNAucp?format=standard)Pets can spread numerous diseases, including ringworm and rabies, to the people they live with, and humans can transmit illnesses to animals too, said veterinarian Carol Rubin of the CDC. The agency advises people to ensure pets are properly vaccinated and protected from parasites and use proper hygiene including hand-washing to protect young children, who are the most at risk. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2013/03/15/Humans-can-catch-diseases-from-pets/UPI-68791363405014/>

[**Maryland reports 1st human rabies death in 37 years**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/entMBXzCwNCihAtBCidmoaCicNDjqT?format=standard) A Marylander has died of rabies for the first time since 1976. It is not yet known how this individual contracted the virus. The deadly disease, which can cause drooling, convulsions, fever and muscle spasms, is prevented in humans through a prophylactic injection of rabies antibodies and a series of vaccines soon after exposure. Symptoms can occur 1-3 months after exposure and death from respiratory failure occurs about one week after symptoms appear. It is recommended that people seek treatment as soon as possible and to report any animal bite. <http://www.baltimoresun.com/health/bs-md-rabies-death-20130312,0,1434749.story>

[**Scientists ID virus that causes Theiler's disease in horses**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/eoapBXzCwNCiiHxtCidmoaCicNNPbD?format=standard)U.S. scientists have used RNA analysis to identify the virus that causes Theiler's disease, a type of equine hepatitis that has stumped veterinarians for nearly a century. The virus, called Theiler's disease-associated virus, or TDAV, belongs to the same family of viruses that cause hepatitis C, yellow fever and dengue fever. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.nature.com/news/distinctive-virus-behind-mystery-horse-disease-1.12624>

[**Scientists warn of Tamiflu-resistant swine influenza**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/eoapBXzCwNCiiHxuCidmoaCicNSIKe?format=standard)Scientists in Australia are raising concerns about a new strain of swine influenza that's resistant to Tamiflu, and reports suggest it's also circulating in the U.K. The H1N1pdm09 strain does respond to another antiviral drug, Relenza, and it can be prevented with a vaccine. Cases have cropped up in healthy people who have never taken Tamiflu, suggesting the virus is easily spread between humans. "The greatest concern is that these resistant viruses could spread globally, similar to that seen in 2008 when the former seasonal H1N1 virus developed oseltamivir resistance and spread worldwide," said World Health Organization researcher Aeron Hurt. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21828245>

[**Soldier finds his feline best friend far from home**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/eoapBXzCwNCiiHxzCidmoaCicNLZcj?format=standard)Army Sgt. Jesse Knott of Oregon City, Ore., took in a stray cat he found wandering a dangerous base in Afghanistan, naming him Koshka, treating his wounds and caring for him for seven months. Knott then found a way to bring the cat home with him. "When two of my friends were killed in a suicide attack, I lost all hope. It was my darkest time, and he's what got me through it. Just the bit of compassion and love that cat showed me is what it took to remind me to stay strong," Knott said. Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.katu.com/news/local/A-cat-and-a-solider-find-each-other-in-Afghanistan-199072241.html>