**One Health News Bits**

**4-2-12**

[**8-year-old girl survives rabies infection**](http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2012/02/02/Eight-year-old-survives-rabies/UPI-86541328236444/)

The CDC on Thursday reported that an 8-year-old girl survived a rabies infection contracted from contact with feral cats. The girl spent 52 days in the hospital, during which time her brain activity was depressed to allow her immune system to fight the disease. Only three people are known to have survived a rabies infection, and the CDC points out that pet vaccination and avoiding unfamiliar animals are essential for prevention. (2/2)

[**CDC: Salmonella from pet turtles is likely cause of outbreak**](http://www.mnn.com/family/pets/stories/cdc-issues-new-warning-about-salmonella-from-pet-turtles)

A salmonellosis outbreak that resulted in 132 infections across 18 states between August 2010 and September 2011, mostly among children, is likely due to exposure to small pet turtles, the CDC reported. Though trade in turtles smaller than four inches was outlawed in 1975 due to salmonella concerns, the animals are often still sold on the black market. (2/2)

[**Study: Malaria deaths may be double previous estimates**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/03/us-malaria-numbers-study-idUSTRE81218420120203)

Malaria kills about 1.2 million people annually, almost twice as many as researchers previously thought, according to research from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Other studies under-count the number of deaths because they focus on children under five, but 42% of the deaths were actually among older children and adults, said researchers, who point out that their findings illustrate the need for more funds to fight the mosquito-borne illness. (2/3)

[**Wild cats and domestic cats share diseases when they share geography**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/02/120206164632.htm)

A study led by Colorado State University researchers found that bobcats, pumas and domestic cats concentrated in the same areas share diseases including bartonellosis, toxoplasmosis and FIV. The study also noted that though wild cat populations were segregated into specific geographic boundaries by highways and urban development, enough habitat overlap was present that disease transmission among cats, and between humans and cats, can occur. (2/6)

[**Man attempts to help sick bat and is exposed to rabies**](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120207/ARTICLES/120209604/1036/business?p=1&tc=pg)

A Ukiah-area man who attempted to nurse a sick bat back to health is undergoing treatment for rabies, Mendocino County health officials said. It's the first animal to test positive for rabies in Mendocino County since 2008 but officials are not alarmed. They noted that rabid animals are present in the county and finding one of them is not a major concern. “It's endemic,” Morley said. (2/7)

**Creutzfeldt-Jakob is diagnosed in 2 California residents**

California health officials reported that two people in the state have been diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease and one has died as a result of the illness. Officials think the cases are not related, and it is unclear whether these two cases are the variant or non-variant forms of CJD; variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease is rare and related to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, while the non-variant form is slightly more common and not related to BSE. Only three people in the U.S. have been diagnosed with vCJD to date, according to the CDC, and those people are believed to have contracted the disease while living abroad. (2/8)

[**Grant supports LSU’s integrative medicine options**](http://www.katc.com/news/lsu-veterinary-teaching-hospital-offers-acupuncture/)

A growing number of veterinarians are realizing that sometimes there are non-traditional therapies that can help animals have a better quality of life. Thanks to a gift from a private donor, the LSU SVM is now exploring integrative therapies, including acupuncture.  Integrative techniques can be excellent preventive and supportive tools. Acupuncture, for example, often brings dramatic pain relief to animals with chronic degenerative diseases, and herbal supplements administered throughout an animal's life may help prevent the development of such diseases. (2/7)

[**Subway construction causes problems for NYC pets**](http://www.dnainfo.com/20120208/upper-east-side/dogs-suffer-second-avenue-subway-health-woes-too-owners-say)

Each weekday, workers are blasting their way down Second Avenue in Manhattan to create the city's new subway line, and the air horns, explosions and general construction are having adverse effects on neighborhood pets. Veterinarians Paul Schwartz and Jonathan Leshanski, who each have practices in the area, report that behavioral and physical problems with pets have increased since the work began, including anxiety, rashes and respiratory problems. (2/8)

[**Maritime noise causes stress in whales, study finds**](http://news.discovery.com/animals/whales-stress-hormones-maritime-traffic-120208.html)

In the wake of the 9/11 attacks, ship traffic precipitously decreased and so did stress among North Atlantic right whales. Researchers used trained dogs to find whale feces floating on the water and analyzed the feces for the presence of stress hormones, finding that glucocorticoid levels dropped immediately after 9/11, mirroring the decreased sea traffic. (2/8)

[**Veterinary school’s lab researches HIV vaccine**](http://iowastatedaily.com/news/article_f3b18b00-5c3a-11e1-bb48-0019bb2963f4.html)

At Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine, Michael Cho's lab is searching for a vaccine for HIV. The lab's work focuses on developing a vaccine that targets two proteins, gp120 and gp41, that allow HIV to enter a patient's cells and produce more of the virus. (2/21)

[**CDC: Disease outbreaks are more common in states with raw milk sales**](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-02-24/states-with-raw-milk-sales-have-more-disease-outbreaks-cdc-says.html)

States that allow raw milk sales have more than twice as many dairy-related disease outbreaks as states with prohibitions on such unpasteurized products, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study showed. The rate of incidents caused by raw milk, cheese and yogurt was 150 times greater than outbreaks linked to pasteurized milk, according to the Atlanta-based CDC’s study, published today in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases. (2/24)

[**State report on EEE calls for greater controls to avoid human infection**](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2012/02/oswego_county_family_of_4-year.html)

The family of a 4-year-old Oswego County girl who died last summer of a mosquito-borne virus said today’s state Senate report about combating the insect and its spread of infection was a step in the right direction. The 93-page report from two state lawmakers calls on New York to pay a larger share of aerial spraying, start a registry to track horses that contract the virus and put pressure on pharmaceutical companies to develop a vaccine for humans to ward against the rare but deadly EEE. (2/21)

[**Lobsters may serve as sentinel of warming climate**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2012/02/27/ns-lobster-climate-change.html?cmp=rss)

Lobster growth may be a barometer for climate change because as the animals use more energy for respiration in warmer water, less is available for them to grow, find food and reproduce, according to researcher Liette Vasseur. Observing lobsters' growth over time may provide early signs of marine ecosystem changes related to warmer temperatures, Vasseur says. (2/27)

[**Man with EEE returns home after 18-month recovery**](http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120228/NEWS/202280319/-1/news)

After contracting Eastern equine encephalitis in Massachusetts in August 2010, 45-year-old Jeff Fuller has recovered well enough to return home. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports that, although infection is rare, some 60% of the state's cases have occurred in two counties. (2/28)

[**U.S. opinion on influenza research diverges from the majority**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5j0uuRzdlHB4iKCH8c_77RXyJ8Nzw?docId=CNG.9338f6cd1895cc31fbf59471dfe5a40d.231)

The U.S. National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity (NSABB) stands out as the main opponent to publishing full data on the altered H5N1 strains that easily spread between ferrets, but influenza scientists say the mutated viruses are not as pathogenic as reported by the media and whether they can even be transmitted to people is unclear. Nevertheless, NSABB board member Michael Osterholm remains concerned about the possible consequences of releasing the research. "I worry about the garage scientist, about the do-your-own scientist, about the person who just wants to see if they can do it," he said. (2/29)

[**Dozens of pets are euthanized due to rabies exposure**](http://usnews.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2012/02/29/10543496-32-pet-dogs-euthanized-in-new-mexico-rabies-outbreak)

Since December, 32 dogs, some livestock and at least one cat have been euthanized due to rabies exposure in New Mexico, and 12 people have undergone rabies prophylaxis, according to the state's Department of Health. "This is one of the most concentrated outbreaks of rabies that has been seen in New Mexico for decades," said state public health veterinarian Paul Ettestad, who also reminded owners to have their pets vaccinated for rabies. (2/29)

[**FAO targets improper veterinary medications used in Africa**](http://allafrica.com/stories/201203010673.html)

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has launched an initiative to curb the use of substandard veterinary medicines to treat African animal trypanosomiasis, also known as Nagana, in Africa. The disease is transmitted to livestock via insects such as tsetse flies and causes abortions and decreased productivity and fertility, racking up $4.5 billion in annual industry losses. Currently, improper drugs are used at insufficient doses, leaving animals unprotected and possibly creating residues in meat and dairy products that could threaten humans, according to FAO Chief Veterinary Officer Juan Lubroth. (3/1)

[**Warmer climate could bring new diseases to U.K., experts warn**](http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/now-horses-are-threatened-by-deadly-foreign-virus-7468941.html)

Experts in the U.K. believe warmer temperatures could facilitate the spread of vector-borne diseases such as African horse sickness to Britain, threatening animals and humans. Bluetongue virus and Schmallenberg virus are recent examples of what scientists say will be a growing issue in the country. African horse sickness is "the main worry," said Matthew Baylis, professor of veterinary epidemiology at the University of Liverpool. (3/2)

[**Political unrest facilitates spread of tropical diseases**](http://www.voanews.com/english/news/health/Tropical-Infections-Rising-Amid-Turmoil-in-Mideast-North-Africa-141038033.html)

With the massive human and animal migration caused by political struggles, a new study now blames these upheavals for the spread or re-emergence of a variety of tropical diseases - some previously eliminated or controlled - affecting an estimated 65 million people. Cutaneous leishmanaisis, Dengue, Rift Valley fever, Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever,” said Dr. Peter Hotez of the National School of Tropical Medicine, listing some of the diseases. (3/2)