**One Health News Bits**

**7-17-12**

[**Lucrative illegal wildlife trade going strong**](http://www.cnbc.com/id/47437618)

The practice of killing animals for profit is still a massive, growing, and lucrative situation of exploitation today. The director of one regional office of the wildlife trade arm of World Wildlife Fund estimates that the illegal trade is a $10 billion to $20 billion global business. The margins on things like elephant ivory or rhinoceros horn can be as profitable as illegal weapons or narcotics. (5/16)

[**CDC: Pedicure fish carry disease-causing bacteria**](http://www.bendbulletin.com/article/20120518/NEWS0107/205180360/)

A type of tiny silver carp from Southeast Asia that became popular as part of a new kind of pedicure in 2008 carries bacteria that can lead to serious infections, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a report this week. The Garra rufa, or "doctor fish," are used to eat the dead skin cells off customers' feet; several states have banned the practice amid health concerns. (5/18)

[**U.K. agricultural show bans alpacas amid TB fears**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-18101263)

Guy Minshull, chairman of the Kenilworth Show organising committee, said: "Our main concern was that, as Warwickshire is a TB free area, if any infected animal came to our show, TB could be contracted through various means and then into cattle at a later date." Mr Minshull said concern first arose when a vet expressed concern that alpacas could carry TB and were not under the same "stringent tests as cattle." (5/17)

[**Captive dolphins ingest less mercury than wild dolphins**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/05/120521115136.htm)

Researchers from the National Aquarium and Johns Hopkins University found that captive dolphins fed with fish from New England and Newfoundland waters have lower blood levels of mercury than their wild cousins living off the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of Florida. Public health officials are concerned about mercury and related compounds in the food chain because humans -- especially children -- and dolphins suffer nervous system damage from high levels of methylmercury. (5/21)

[**Researchers work to unlock secrets of dogs’ minds**](http://www.heraldsun.com/view/full_story/18686578/article-Duke-researchers-try-to-enter-the-canine-mind)

Dogs already act as therapy and service animals in many capacities, including helping legal authorities, detecting cancer in humans and calming autistic children, but researchers at the Duke Canine Cognition Center hope to broaden human understanding of the canine mind, which could expand the ways dogs can help humans. Researchers are performing behavioral tests to better understand dogs' "tendency to interpret human behavior and be cooperative with it," said graduate student Evan MacLean.

[**Liver fluke infection appears to interfere with bovine TB monitoring**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18118124)

Scientists have known for a few years that cows carrying both TB and the fluke *Fasciola hepatica* are less likely to show positive on the normal TB test. Now researchers have shown that this could lead to a reduction of one-third in the detection of infected cattle. (5/22)

[**Rhesus monkeys terrorize New Delhi residents**](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/23/world/asia/fed-by-indians-monkeys-overwhelm-delhi.html?_r=1)

Monkeys are believed to represent Hanuman, a Hindu god, and Hindus in India traditionally feed them twice a week. That feeding, combined with urban encroachment on the monkeys' natural habitat, has caused a massive overpopulation of rhesus monkeys in and around New Delhi. Groups of the animals go after people, even killing one prominent resident who fell from a terrace after being attacked. They also destroy property and regularly steal possessions such as clothes and food. Government trapping projects have been unsuccessful. (5/22)

[**PulseNet revolutionizes food pathogen tracking**](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/05/taking-the-pulse-of-cdcs-pulsenet/)

PulseNet is a federal database that identifies foodborne pathogens based on DNA and then stores that information for use in detecting outbreaks that might otherwise go undetected. However, the recent increase in tests that don't rely on pathogen cultures may hinder the identification of outbreaks because they don't provide a way to connect remote cases, as the PulseNet DNA-based system does. (5/23)

[**Man dies from babesiosis infection; first human case in Australia**](http://www.sciencewa.net.au/topics/health-a-medicine/item/1451-first-case-of-babesiosis-in-australia-baffles-scientists)

Veterinary and public health officials in Australia are concerned that babesiosis may be present in local rodent populations after an Australian man died of complications from the disease, which is well-known in the Northern Hemisphere but previously absent in Australia. Babesiosis is usually maintained in rats and mice and can be transmitted to humans via a bite from the tick Ixodes scapularis, which can also transmit Lyme disease. (5/29)

[**Pathogens jump between species, wreaking havoc**](http://io9.com/5913705/zoonosis-when-cuddling-can-kill/)

It's well-known that zoonotic diseases, such as influenza and HIV, are passed between species and can ultimately infect humans, but some may be surprised to know that humans can also serve as a source of infection for animals in reverse zoonosis. There are reports of zoo and farm animals contracting diseases including influenza, tuberculosis and metapneumovirus from humans. (5/28)

[**Dogs give fresh start to veterans with PTSD**](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2018299814_apwaservicedogssoldiers1stldwritethru.html)

The Warrior Transition Battalion at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state and Brigadoon Service Dogs have teamed up to provide troops suffering from post-war mental and emotional disorders with specially trained service dogs. Twelve dogs have been placed so far, and a new arm of the program enlists inmates to help train dogs so more can be available for veterans. (5/27)

[**Military working dogs’ classification as equipment could change**](http://www.annarbor.com/pets/military-working-dogs-memorial-day-canine-members-of-the-armed-forces-act/)

Though military dogs have served alongside human forces since World War I, have saved many human lives and have a "capability they bring to the fight [that] cannot be replicated by man or machine," according to retired Gen. David H. Petraeus, they are classified as equipment by the U.S. government. Pending legislation would change their classification to "canine members of the armed forces." (5/27)

[**In wild animals, charting the pathways of disease**](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/29/science/eco-immunology-charts-pathways-of-disease-in-nature.html?_r=1&ref=science)

When we alter the environment abruptly we radically change the balance between diseases (in wildlife) and the immune system, which can affect the entire web of life, including humans. We are just beginning to understand this. In the Wallowa Mountains of northeastern Oregon, researchers take nose and throat swab samples from a herd of bighorn sheep in efforts to understand the immune systems of wild animals and to use that knowledge to gain a better understanding of human immune systems. (5/28)

[**Fleas on stray cats may be source of typhus infection in child**](http://www.dailynews.com/ci_20732119/typhus-threat-prompts-oc-corral-feral-cats-at?source=most_emailed)

Last month, a child in Orange County, Calif., was successfully treated for typhus, a potentially fatal disease spread via bites from infected fleas and lice. According to one health official, typhus cases have been increasing in California since 2006. County vector control officials will don hazard suits and attempt to collect and euthanize feral cats near where the child lives to try to reduce the flea population that is likely transmitting the disease. (5/29)

[**Australian veterinarians abandon equine practice due to Hendra risks**](http://horsetalk.co.nz/2012/05/29/aussie-vets-quit-horses-over-hendra/)

After several veterinarians in Australia who contracted Hendra virus from infected horses died, some equine veterinarians decided to forgo the horse component of their practice, according to a recent survey of 21 veterinarians and other staff in Australia. Fewer veterinarians treating horses may increase the risk of Hendra virus for those remaining in horse work, but development of a new vaccine is under way and may help reduce the risks. (5/29)

[**Emerging field of eco-immunology aids Zoonoses understanding**](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/29/science/eco-immunology-charts-pathways-of-disease-in-nature.html?_r=1&ref=science)

Eco-immunology, a discipline that studies the immune systems of wild animals to learn about human immunity, is providing valuable insights into the evolution of diseases in animals to reduce the spread of zoonotic diseases and protect public health. In one example, after scientist Raina K. Plowright found that stress caused Hendra virus shedding in flying red foxes, efforts to remove the bats en masse were curbed to protect human health. (5/28)

[**White-nose syndrome found in endangered gray bats**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/gray-bats-found-to-carry-white-nose-disease/2012/05/29/gJQA2Ag1zU_story.html)

The gray bat, an endangered species that was on its way to recovery in the U.S., may be decimated by the deadly white-nose syndrome, a fungal infection that has killed some 6.7million bats in 12 states and four Canadian provinces since 2006. Gray bats eat a staggering 223 billion insects a year in Missouri alone, and a massive die-off would have a significant economic and environmental impact on agriculture, said Paul McKenzie, the Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species coordinator in Missouri. (5/29)

[**People and pets can share healthy lifestyle**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/richard-palmquist-dvm/pets-weight_b_1540812.html)

A survey found that overweight pets are often owned by people who are also overweight, with both suffering poorer health than their lighter counterparts. Veterinarian Richard Palmquist suggests several ways pets and their owners can improve overall health and shed unhealthy pounds. Dr. Palmquist recommends feeding pets an appropriate amount of a well-formulated food to maintain lean weight and providing them with plenty of opportunities to exercise. (5/30)

[**FDA appeals judge’s ruling to enact ban on antibiotics in animal feed**](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/06/fda-appeals-mandate-to-ban-three-animal-antibiotics/)

FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius have filed an appeal in an attempt to overturn a judge's decision to force the FDA to ban three antibiotics in animal feed. The antibiotics -- one penicillin and two tetracyclines -- were targeted for removal from animal feed in a 1977 FDA statement that was never enacted. Five nonprofit organizations recently initiated legal action to spark the FDA to follow through on that statement. (6/1)

[**Disease-tracking website monitors events worldwide**](http://theadvocate.com/features/people/2840533-123/tracking-disease)

ProMED-mail is a website run by 25 scientists and veterinary staff that monitors and reports human, animal and plant disease outbreaks, toxic events and poisonings around the world. It's a routine source of information for public health officials, journalists and even non-scientists and is three days ahead of the World Health Organization's monitoring system, according to veterinary epidemiologist Martin Hugh-Jones, professor emeritus at Louisiana State University and one of the website's operators. (6/1)

[**Year’s first case of human plague identified in New Mexico man**](http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2639671.shtml?cat=504)

The New Mexico Department of Health has confirmed the first human case of plague in the United States this year. State health officials said Thursday that a 78-year-old man from Torrance County currently is hospitalized in stable condition as environmental investigation is taking place at the man’s home to look for ongoing risk to others in the surrounding area. (5/31)

[**Rapid test identifies all avian influenza strains**](http://www.azosensors.com/news.aspx?newsID=4268)

Scientists at the Experimental Therapeutics Centre (ETC) have collaborated with Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) clinicians to develop a rapid and comprehensive H5N1 bird flu diagnostic kit that can detect all existing strains of the H5N1 virus in a single test. (5/30)

[**Reducing the risk of salmonella infection**](http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=390164)

Veterinarian Lee Pickett explains the symptoms of salmonella infection in pets and people and shares tips on how to reduce the risk of infection. Dr. Pickett also addresses an owner's question about the quality of pricey pet foods compared with that of less-expensive items. (6/1)

[**One Health- it’s all connected**](http://www.avma.org/onehealth/)

This resource, provided by the AVMA, helps explain the integrative effort of One Health and how understanding its basic foundation and addressing of current health issues applies to the world today. (6/1)

[**More than just fleas can cause discomfort and illness in pets**](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/tailsofseattle/2018323316_veterinary_qa_other_pests_and_parasites_pet_owners_should_be_awa.html)

In addition to fleas, other parasites such as giardia, ticks and heartworms can cause serious illness in pets, and ticks and giardia can also sicken people, says veterinarian Jeffrey Duke. Consulting with a veterinarian to identify the cause of a pet's problems and devise a prevention and treatment plan is the best way to help safeguard health, Dr. Duke notes. (5/31)