**One Health News Bits**

**7-28-12**

[**The risk of global worming**](http://www.economist.com/node/21556205)

For decades, the overuse of antibiotics has encouraged the evolution of drug-resistant bacteria which, have been responsible for many deaths that might otherwise have been avoided. Now something similar seems to be happening in agriculture. The overuse of drugs against parasitic worms which infest stock animals means that these, too, are becoming drug-resistant. That is bad for the animals’ health and welfare, and equally bad for farmers’ profits. (6/2)

[**Antibiotic-free meat on the increase in food industry**](http://minnesota.publicradio.org/features/npr.php?id=154084442)

Big brands like Hyatt Hotels, Bon Appetit Management Co and Chipotle, the fast food chain have embraced antibiotic free, pasture-raised meat in their business. Antibiotic meat business makes up about 2% of the market but this is set to increase as consumers become more concerned about what they eat. Concerns of antibiotic resistance in humans have led to the issue of voluntary guidelines by the FDA recommending limited use of antibiotics in food animals. (6/5)

[**FDA ordered to reconsider petitions on antibiotics**](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/06/fda-ordered-to-reconsider-petitions-on-antibiotics/)

Federal judge ruled this week that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) must reconsider earlier petitions to ban certain medically important antibiotics (penicillin and tetracycline) used in animal agriculture. The FDA’s voluntary guidance to antibiotic use is its preferred approach because of use of fewer resources and time versus the complete withdrawal of individual animal drugs. (6/5)

[**Avian Influenza A (H5N1) confirmed in 2 year child in Hong Kong**](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2012_06_05/en/index.html)

A human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection has been reported by the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, Hong Kong, China. A two-year male developed symptoms on May 23 and the disease was laboratory confirmed on June 2nd. So far, 22 people have been infected with H5N1 in Hong Kong since 1997. (6/5)

[**Dog may have contracted Hendra virus**](http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/dogs-owners-await-hendra-test-results-20120605-1zszu.html)

A mixed-breed dog in Australia is being retested after one of four samples from the dog tested positive for Hendra virus. A horse on the same property died as a result of Hendra virus infection. If positive, the dog would be only the second confirmed canine case of Hendra virus and may have to be euthanized if health officials decide it is a source of infection for humans. (6/5)

[**Animal disease lab construction caught in red tape**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/03/usa-agriculture-diseases-idUSL1E8GVH7E20120603)

Manhattan, Kan., was named the site for the federal government's new animal disease research facility and to replace the Plum Island center in New York, which doesn't have space to expand to include a biosafety Level 4 area for studying animal diseases that can spread to humans. However, budget cuts and political debate have brought construction of the estimated $1 billion facility to a halt. (6/5)

[**Parasite’s march across Australia threatens cattle and other species**](http://www.smh.com.au/environment/animals/spreading-parasite-affects-more-cattle-herds-20120604-1zs9z.html)

University of Sydney researchers discovered that Neospora caninum, a parasite carried by dogs that causes spontaneous abortions in cattle, has spread from the east coast of Australia and now likely affects cattle throughout the country, possibly infecting wildlife and domestic animals. The parasite is known to be deadly in the fat-tailed dunnart, a small marsupial, and scientists are very concerned about its spread. (6/5)

[**Massive infectious disease event may have shaped modern humans**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120604155554.htm)

Roughly 100,000 years ago, human evolution reached a mysterious bottleneck: Our ancestors had been reduced to perhaps five to ten thousand individuals living in Africa. In time, "behaviorally modern" humans would emerge from this population, expanding dramatically in both number and range, and replacing all other co-existing evolutionary cousins, such as the Neanderthals. (6/5)

[**Some 20 sea lions shot dead in Pacific Northwest**](http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2012/06/two_more_sea_lions_shot_to_dea.html)

In the past two months, officials report that 20 sea lions -- both threatened Stellar sea lions and California sea lions -- have been found dead with gunshot wounds along the Northern Oregon and Southern Washington coasts. Officials think salmon fishermen may be responsible for the shootings as they try to decrease fishing competition from the animals. (6/4)

[**Child dies after contracting hantavirus**](http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/shannon-county-girl-dies-from-hantavirus/article_14b7dee8-01aa-51b0-86bb-10e6bc03dded.html)

A girl under age 10 from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota contracted hantavirus and died as a result of the ensuing Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, according to the state Department of Health. The virus is passed in rodent feces and urine and people become ill after inhaling, and sometimes after ingesting, the virus. However, it is not transmissible between humans. According to the CDC, there have been 587 human hantavirus cases in the U.S., and some 36% of those people died from it. (6/5)

[**Japan may use animals to predict natural disasters**](http://global.christianpost.com/news/japan-animal-tsunami-warning-system-involves-pets-sixth-sense-video-76082/)

In light of reports that animals acted strangely just before the 2011 tsunami in Japan, the deputy mayor of the Japanese coastal city of Susaki may use animals as one way to help predict another natural disaster. Animals also exhibited altered behavior, such as dogs refusing to go outside, wild animals abandoning their normal habitats and zoo animals rushing into their enclosures, prior to the tsunami that struck Sri Lanka in 2005. (6/5)

[**Toxoplasmosis is a zoonotic disease**](http://www.gilroydispatch.com/lifestyles/columnists/pete_keesling/cats-and-fishing-tackle-don-t-mix/article_625251e4-af5a-11e1-bef2-001a4bcf6878.html)

Veterinarian Pete Keesling answers an owner's question about a cat diagnosed with toxoplasmosis, explaining that the zoonotic disease can cause serious illness in pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals, but can be prevented in humans via good hygiene. Dr. Keesling also reminds owners to keep fishing gear away from pets, relaying a story about an owner who hooked his own cat while practicing casting in his backyard. (6/5)

[**Exposure to rabid horse leads to rabies prophylaxis for 6 people**](http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/18837121/six-being-treated-after-exposure-to-rabid-horse)

The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine confirmed a case of rabies in a horse after several people came in contact with the animal, including veterinarians examining it for symptoms, and six people are undergoing post-exposure rabies treatment. Rabies is carried by local wildlife, and raccoons account for 80% of rabies exposures in the U.S. (6/20)

[**Shelter for battered women changes policy, allows pets**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505263_162-57456761/hero-dog-prompts-womens-shelter-to-accept-canines/)

The Rose Brooks Center, a women's shelter in Kansas City, Mo., now allows battered women seeking refuge to bring their pets with them. The move was inspired by a woman who said she would rather leave the shelter than stay without her Great Dane, who covered her body with his own to protect her from a brutal beating. Some 40% of battered women won't leave abusive situations because they fear for their pets. (6/20)

[**Controversial avian influenza studies published in full**](http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/health/2012-06-21/avian-flu-virus-few-mutations-away-spreading-easily-report-says?v=1340289160)

The journal Science on Thursday published both full studies on avian influenza that detail the transformation of the virus into one that is easily transmitted via airborne droplets among ferrets. The work shows that as few as five, and no more than 10, mutations are enough to create a strain that could result in a pandemic, and two of those mutations have already been seen with some regularity among bird populations. Scientists are still grappling with several questions about avian influenza, including its current distribution and the risk it poses to humans. (6/21)

[**Woman who survived rabies infection educates others**](http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/First-unvaccinated-rabies-survivor-shares-story-3653582.php)

Jeanna Geise, the Wisconsin woman who contracted rabies from a bat bite as a teen and became the first patient to undergo and survive a novel treatment for rabies, now educates others on the dangers of the disease. Geise blames the rabies virus, not the bats. "I love bats more than ever. It's the disease, not the animal's fault," she said. (6/21)

[**Q fever risks high during lambing season**](http://scienceblogs.com/aetiology/2012/06/21/a-query-about-q-fever-answers-to-the-questions-you-should-ask/)

Q fever is a biosafety level three organism, keeping company with pathogens such as tuberculosis, anthrax, SARS and yellow fever, so farmers should take precautions and those most at risk from complications of illness should avoid barns during lambing season, writes veterinarian and shepherd Jean DeNapoli. The bacteria Coxiella burnetii is responsible for Q fever, which causes abortions in sheep, cattle and goats and can be transmitted to people. (6/21)

[**Unseen coyotes live among us**](http://scienceblogs.com/aetiology/2012/06/21/coexisting-with-coyotes/)

Studies have shown that coyotes are able to adapt to an urban environment and thrive while keeping out of sight of humans, but their presence puts humans and their pets at risk for disease, including sarcoptic mange, bartonella vinsonii and canine distemper virus. Vaccines help prevent disease transmission to pets, while people can protect themselves by avoiding coyotes, namely by never feeding them. (6/21)

[**Canine trained to find brown tree snakes that threaten Hawaii**](http://www.kitv.com/news/hawaii/State-bringing-back-canine-snake-detectors/-/8905354/15203022/-/q2ew9b/-/index.html)

After a nearly three year lapse, the [Hawaii Department of Agriculture](http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/) is bringing back canine units capable of detecting the brown tree snake, which if established in Hawaii would devastate the state's fragile ecosystem. The rebirth of the canine detector program was made possible last week after Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a bill into law that sets aside $162,540 for the hiring of one inspector-trainer and three dog handlers. (6/21)

[**Bionic dog up for adoption**](http://www.petside.com/article/peggy-leg-bionic-dog-adoption)

Peggy Leg, a rescued [puppy](http://www.petside.com/article/peggy-leg-bionic-dog-adoption) from Roswell, New Mexico, was born without a foot. Until recently, her rescuers at [Enchantment Chihuahua Rescue](http://www.enchantmentrescueltd.com/) believed that her leg would have to be amputated because the strain was too much on the poor Chihuahua’s back. Thanks to researchers at North Carolina State University, the little pup is soon to be four-legged because of a titanium implant that the college is outfitting Peggy Leg with. (6/14)

[**Veterinary team develops better Bartonella test for humans**](http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/06/24/3332959/sharper-infection-detection.html)

North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine internal medicine professor Ed Breitschwerdt and his team have developed a more sensitive test for Bartonella, a bacteria that is considered a differential in humans with chronic disease. The test relies on an insect-based culture medium that promotes growth of the bacteria, making it easier to identify with PCR. (6/24)

[**New reservoir for tick-borne diseases identified in Mo.**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120623094409.htm)

Scientists recently found that 25% of gray squirrels in one suburban area of Missouri are reservoirs for Ehrlichia and STARI, diseases transmitted by the lone star tick that can cause serious illness in people, compared with only 5% of squirrels in a more urban setting. The scientists think the reason for the disparity is that the deer population, which is the main lone star tick reservoir, is greater in suburban areas. (6/23)