**One Health News Bits**

(Late June / early July 2012)

[**Zoo staff work to enhance pandemic preparedness**](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/keeping-zoo-animals-healthy-key-to-preventing-outbreaks/article_775fc640-b025-11e1-90ab-0019bb2963f4.html)

Zoos provide the perfect storm for an infectious disease outbreak because they bring exotic animals, local wildlife, animal care personnel and the general public in close enough proximity such that a zoonotic disease could easily pass among species, according to Yvette Johnson-Walker, a clinical epidemiologist with the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. On Wednesday, the Illinois Farm Bureau hosted Flu at the Zoo, a practice exercise aimed at preparing zoo personnel to quickly and efficiently respond to a zoonotic disease outbreak. (6/6)

[**Veterinarians participate in Appalachian health care outreach**](http://www.knoxnews.com/news/2012/jun/06/yournews-lmu-and-medical-team-partner-to-provide-f/)

Veterinarians joined physicians, dentists and optical care professionals to provide free medical care for people and their pets as part of Lincoln Memorial University and Remote Area Medical's health care event. Veterinarians spayed or neutered 238 animals amputated a pet's leg and extracted a bullet from another animal as part of the effort. (6/6)

[**Raw milk: Hazardous to your health?**](http://www.avmamedia.org/display.asp?sid=454&NAME=Raw_milk:_Hazardous_to_Your_Health?)

More people are buying raw milk — untreated, unprocessed, unpasteurized and straight from the cow. But is it really safe and healthy, or can it be hazardous to your health? Listen to AVMA's latest [*Chew on This* podcast](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/dGpWBXzCwNCdpjqZCidmoaCicNQaVO) to hear an interview on raw milk with food safety expert Dr. Michele Jay-Russell.

[**Study suggests dogs may feel empathy**](http://www.livescience.com/20823-canine-comfort-dogs-understand-emotion.html)

A new study from University of London researchers found that dogs exhibit behavior that could be deemed empathetic when in the presence of a weeping person. Although the study obviously cannot measure the dogs' thoughts, the researchers hope to usher in more studies on dog emotions. (6/7)

[**FMD vaccine receives conditional approval**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/07/us-genvec-usda-fmdvaccine-idUSBRE8560W820120607)

The company GenVec’s first approved product, foot and mouth disease vaccine received conditional approval from U.S. regulator, sending its shares up to 17 percent. The vaccine is GenVec’s first approved product, and the company said the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)issued a conditional license to Antelope Valley Bios Inc, which manufactures the vaccine under a contract from GenVec.(6/8)

[**Panel to discuss the FDA’s livestock antibiotic guidelines**](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/06/avma-ahi-plan-antibiotics-panel-on-capitol-hill/)

Dr. Rene Carlson, president of the AVMA, along with veterinarians and others from the USDA, the Department of Homeland Security, the NIH, the Animal Health Institute and the Association of Bovine Practitioners, will convene a panel June 20 in Washington, D.C., to discuss the FDA's new antibiotic guidelines, which will increase veterinary oversight of antibiotic use in food animals. (6/8)

[**Veteran’s PTSD service dog is confiscated**](http://www.9news.com/rss/story.aspx?storyid=271585)

The Veteran Justice Advocate Program has stepped in to try to keep other veterans from experiencing a loss similar to that of Fort Collins, Colo., veteran Alan Celusniak, whose PTSD service dog, Knox, was confiscated and subsequently adopted by another family after Celusniak's DUI arrest. The group has asked legislators to give service dogs greater consideration when presented to a shelter. (6/9)

[**Ag. Secretar: Farm Bill’s passage will ensure safety of food supply**](http://www.timesreporter.com/news/ohio/x465792901/Its-more-than-a-Farm-Bill-US-Ag-official-says?zc_p=0)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack refers to the current Farm Bill as "the Food, Farm and Jobs Bill" because it includes farm-funding measures but also impacts human health, animal welfare, environmental issues and international trade. "[The bill] helps ensure that the food supply chain remains secure and continues to provide Americans with extraordinary diversity and affordability," Vilsack said. (6/9)

[**Our Animal Nature**](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/10/opinion/sunday/our-animal-natures.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=Zoobiquity&st=Search)

The Sunday, June 10 Review section of *The New York Times* published an extensive excerpt from a forthcoming book called “Zoobiquity” by UCLA cardiologist Barbara Natterson-Horowitz about the commonalities between veterinary and human medicine. While she did not mention “One Health” specifically, she takes a very One Health, or 'zoobiquity' approach. NPR also interviewed Natterson-Horowitz on her perspectives of health and sickness in the animal kingdom[,found here](http://www.npr.org/2012/06/12/154523594/what-animals-can-teach-humans-about-healing).(6/12)

[**Evidence-based animal CPR guidelines released**](http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/350771/20120611/cpr-pet-guidelines-cat-dog-chest-compressions.htm)

University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University researchers have published the first-ever evidence-based CPR guidelines for dogs and cats in cardiac arrest. The guidelines include recommendations for the rate of chest compressions as well as descriptions of how to position animals. (6/11)

[**Scientists study butterflies and bats to understand infectious diseases**](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/science_nation/index.jsp)

University of Georgia researchers are studying monarch butterflies in the U.S. and Mexico and vampire bats in Peru in an effort to better understand factors that affect infectious diseases in animals and people. Ecologist Sonia Altizer evaluates the impact of parasite infection on monarch butterfly migration, while researcher Daniel Streicker examines the connection between rabies outbreaks and local growth in the vampire bat population. (6/11)

[**Horses can contract and transmit rabies**](http://www.abc-7.com/story/18751208/health-matters-horses-present-rabies-risk)

So far this year, two horses in Florida have died from rabies, prompting officials to remind people that horses can contract the disease and transmit it to humans through their saliva. Vaccinations are not required for horses, which are not considered domestic animals, but because many people closely interact with them, disease transmission is possible. (6/11)

[**Collateral damage**](http://www.avma.org/issues/animal_welfare/pets_foreclosed_homes_faq.asp?utm_source=smartbrief&utm_medium=email)

An increasing number of media reports describe pets found in homes that have been vacated due to foreclosure. Sometimes these pets have been abandoned, but are otherwise healthy; other times, these pets have been found ill, dying or dead. As home foreclosures continue across the country, pet owners are urged to seek other solutions and not leave their pets in abandoned homes.  (6/12)

[**“Vampiricide” could increase rabies prevalence in bats**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gYfZyfR2JNVl_hBmhfVUzNPrl9og?docId=CNG.b2371552eed6d000aa85ebc4c2e4bc6b.b11)

"Vampiricide," the practice of culling vampire bats in an effort to fight rabies, instead may increase the virus' prevalence in targeted bat populations, according to recent research by Daniel Streicker of the University of Georgia. Peruvian culling efforts are based on the assumption that sufficiently reduced populations would no longer carry the virus, but the research found no relationship between population size and rabies presence. Officials hope to use Streicker's findings to formulate a better plan for fighting rabies, which kills some 50,000 people worldwide each year. (6/12)

[**Oregon man contracts plague from cat bite**](http://www.ktvz.com/news/31180725/detail.html)

An Oregon man is in critical condition after he likely contracted the septicemic form of plague from a cat bite. The incident marks the fourth human case of plague in Oregon since 1995. Plague, a potentially deadly disease carried by fleas on domestic and wild animals, causes serious illness and death in people and animals if untreated. "To protect your pets, avoid allowing them access to areas with fleas or to other pets carrying fleas, and treat your pets for fleas to help prevent this disease," said Karen Yeargain, Crook County Health Department communicable disease coordinator. (6/14)

[**Study: Gorrilas use special communication with infants**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/18393314)

In a captive study of western lowland gorillas, researchers found that mother gorillas used certain gestures repeatedly and were more tactile with infants than with adults. Although the research doesn't directly reveal any information regarding the evolution of how humans interact with babies, it "shows that older animals possess a certain awareness of the infants' immature communication skills," said lead researcher Eva Maria Luef. (6/12)

[**Animals help people in interesting ways**](http://www.theatlanticcities.com/neighborhoods/2012/06/5-surprising-ways-animals-can-help-their-city/2246/)

Numerous cities have discovered the benefits of animals and are using them in surprising ways. Seattle rents goats to clear blackberry bushes for utility workers, while Cleveland officials hired a flock of sheep and one llama to mow vacant lots. The animals provide a money-saving, eco-friendly alternative to industrial solutions. (6/12)

[**On-the-job dogs work well for employers, staff**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/good-dog-good-job-millions-of-dogs-follow-owners-to-work-at-pet-friendly-businesses/2012/06/12/gJQA1beqXV_story.html)

An American Pet Products Association survey last year found that about 2.3 million dogs accompany 1.4 million owners to work each day. Employees who bring their dogs to work report being happier and more relaxed, while employers like the idea of keeping employees happy. June 22 is Take Your Dog to Work Day, which some companies have used as an experiment to see how the furry companions affect the work environment. (6/12)

[**Schistosomiasis vaccine may be available within 3 years**](http://news.yahoo.com/brazil-claims-successful-test-parasite-vaccine-070054973.html)

Researchers from Brazil have developed a vaccine for schistosomiasis, a parasitic disease of cattle that also affects more than 200 million people around the world, causing a rash, pain, fever and chills. The condition can ultimately lead to organ damage. The vaccine has already been tested in people, and researchers hope to begin distribution of it within three years. (6/13)

[**Mapped bonobo genome looks a lot like human genome**](http://www.livescience.com/20940-unraveling-bonobo-genome-secrets.html)

Scientists have completed mapping the genome of bonobos, marking a major milestone: The genomes of all the great apes have been mapped. The bonobo genome shares a lot of material with chimps and humans. More than 99% of the genetic material is identical to that of the chimpanzee, and 98.7% matches the human genome. (6/13)

[**Blue-green algae may explain farm’s massive cattle die-off**](http://marionrecord.com/direct/algae_linked_in_cattle_deaths+4338algae+416c676165206c696e6b656420696e20636174746c6520646561746873)

Some 30% of one Kansas farm's pastured cattle herd died in less than two days last month and blue - green algae is suspected to be the cause. Veterinarian Brendan Kraus collected water samples from a pond for testing, which confirmed the presence of two potentially lethal species of cyanobacteria. The species that was most abundant generates potent neurotoxins. "This type of toxin is capable of killing animals in mere minutes,” Dr. Kraus said. Humans can also be affected by the algae, but because they usually are exposed to smaller quantities of contaminated pond water than animals, their symptoms are generally less severe. (6/14)

[**Homeless pets and people help each other**](http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-puppy-panhandlers-20120614,0,5528144.story)

A San Francisco plan, called WOOF, aims to reduce panhandling and animal shelter overcrowding by matching abandoned dogs with formerly homeless people. The latest municipal innovation stands for Wonderful Opportunities for Occupants and Fidos, which involves carefully selected dogs from the city shelter and carefully screened and trained formerly homeless people, who will foster the animals until permanent homes can be found.. (6/12)

[**White nose syndrome fungus found in Iowa bat**](http://host.madison.com/experts-fear-spread-of-deadly-bat-disease-into-wisconsin/article_84abbeda-b5ac-11e1-9d8e-001a4bcf887a.html)

The fungus that causes white nose syndrome in certain species of bats was recently found in a bat in Iowa, only 30 miles from Wisconsin, where the disease has not yet been noted. In the U.S. and Canada, white nose syndrome has killed some 6.7 million bats, and Iowa and Wisconsin officials are concerned about its spread to their states, not only because of the welfare of the bats, but also because the animals are consummate insect eaters. (6/13)

[**Humans aren’t the only species with good dads**](http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/health/2012-06-14/some-male-animals-also-strive-be-good-fathers-researchers-say?v=1339716025)

Researchers say many animals, including some mammals, also try to be good dads. Studying the science of the paternal instinct in those animals could provide insights into humans.

In an online chat Thursday on the ScienceNOW Web site of the journalScience, researchers Kelly Lambert and Karen Bales talked about their research into those good animal fathers, which include prairie voles, California deer mice, titi monkeys and marmosets, the siamang ape and wolves. (6/14)

[**Promising Ebola treatment under development**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2012/06/13/mb-ebola-treatment-cp.html)

Canadian researchers are reporting a potential advance in the treatment of Ebola virus infection, one of the most deadly pathogens known to humankind. Researchers from the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg are reporting that monkeys deliberately infected with Ebola were successfully saved with a cocktail of antibodies against the virus. (6/13)

[**Chagas disease: transmission and symptoms**](http://www.bccourier.com/Archives/News_detail.php?contentId=11222)

Texas veterinarians reported 530 cases of Chagas disease in dogs over the past 15 years. The parasite also infects humans, causing acute symptoms such as fever and swollen lymph nodes, and can progress over years and result in multi-organ failure. Transmitted by the reduvid bug, which takes a blood meal and then defecates Trypanosoma cruzi organisms into the skin wound, Chagas disease is present in some 10 million people worldwide, including an estimated 1 million people in the U.S. (6/14)

[**22 cases of human illness tied to Diamond Pet Foods brands**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/06/15/155097981/salmonella-in-dog-food-is-making-humans-sick)

wenty-two people in 13 U.S. states and Canada have contracted salmonellosis linked to Diamond Pet Foods brands since the company began recalling some of its food in April. The bacteria are spread from the food, the animals, or the animal's feces, where it can be shed for up to six weeks. The average age of infected persons is 46.5 years old, and 68% of the patients are women. (6/15)

[**Review of agro-biosafety lab in Kan. Says risks are underestimated**](http://www.nature.com/news/risk-assessment-of-us-agro-biosafety-lab-found-wanting-1.10842)

An independent U.S. National Academy of Sciences panel found that government risk assessment calculations for the proposed bio-safety level 4 lab in Manhattan, Kan., underestimate the risk of human error that could cause an escape of pathogens from the lab. "I think all of us recognize the need to advance our research ... and understand the risks involved and the kinds of mitigation strategies like vaccines that are available," said veterinarian Mark Thurmond, a committee member from the University of California, Davis. (6/15)

[**Q fever leads to goat herd quarantine**](http://www.boiseweekly.com/CityDesk/archives/2012/06/17/q-fever-confirmed-in-idaho-goats)

The Idaho Department of Agriculture confirmed Q fever in a goat herd in the state and has quarantined that herd. Q fever causes stillbirth in large animals such as sheep, goats, cattle, dog and cats, and is contagious to humans. (6/17)

[**Predator-prey dynamics may explain Lyme disease spike**](http://www.jsonline.com/features/health/explosion-in-lyme-disease-cases-may-not-hinge-completely-on-deer-population-study-finds-o75qj33-159464415.html)

Lyme disease in Wisconsin increased 280% between 1997 and 2007, and new research suggests the uptick doesn't parallel the deer population, which has actually slightly decreased, but instead reflects the change in fox and coyote numbers in the state. Predator-prey changes to ecosystems have been implicated in the proliferation of other infectious zoonotic diseases, including bubonic plague and hantavirus. (6/18)

[**Woman recovering from Calif.’s first 2012 West Nile Virus case**](http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/First-West-Nile-case-of-2012/nKM4USqHsU2SVqZZLZWpPg.cspx)

A 70-year-old California woman tested positive for West Nile Virus, the state's first case this year, but she is reportedly recovering from the infection. West Nile virus is transmitted to animals and people via mosquito bites and can cause severe neurological symptoms in a small number of those infected. (6/18)

[**Lose weight with a 4-legged friend**](http://health.usnews.com/health-news/articles/2012/06/15/how-to-lose-weight-with-your-pet)

Extra pounds affect 53% of adult dogs and 55% percent of adult cats, and a study found that people who exercised with their pets lost more weight than those without pets who followed the same regimen. This article provides some pet-friendly weight loss activities to help owners and their animals get moving. (6/15)

[**Children who live with dogs may have fewer colds, study finds**](http://abcnews.go.com/Health/dogs-cut-common-cold-risk-ways-dogs-health/story?id=16604565#.T-SZyhdrM1J)

Living with dogs decreases the susceptibility to respiratory syncytial virus, which causes the common cold and bronchiolitis, as being around dogs "trains" children's immune systems to resist asthma, according to research from the University of California, San Francisco. Doctors have long recognized the decreased incidence of asthma in kids with dogs, but this study is the first to identify a contributing factor. (6/19)

[**Threatened red fox species spotted in Oregon**](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/06/19/BAHK1P4LJP.DTL)

The Sierra Nevada red fox, a mountain-dwelling species thought to exist solely in California and listed as a threatened species in 1980, was spotted several times and caught on camera in Oregon, prompting hope for its survival. Work will commence to count the number of individuals in the two groups of foxes that were found. (6/20)

[**Companies and canines benefit on Friday: Take your dog to work day**](http://www.ocala.com/article/20120619/ARTICLES/120619697?p=1&tc=pg)

Pet Sitters International's 14th Take Your Dog to Work Day is Friday, and the practice of bringing pets to work is reportedly gaining momentum, with some 10,000 hits on the group's website. "I think it is awesome and a wonderful idea for others to learn how much a dog can contribute to the energy level, stress reduction and goodwill fostered in an office by the presence of a dog," said certified public accountant Mike DeMeola, who takes his dogs to work every day in Florida. (6/19)