**One Health News Bits**

**9-25-13**

[**Tool IDS zoonotic disease “superspreaders”**](http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2013/04/which-primate-is-the-most-likely-source-of-the-next-pandemic/)

A new research tool may help identify "superspreaders," the species most likely to be the origin of the next pandemic. Researchers have developed a tool that they used to map links between 140 primate species based on the pathogens they carry and transmit and their geographical ranges, finding that apes, baboons and vervet monkeys are among the most likely suspects. "Our findings suggest that centrality may help to detect risks that might otherwise go unnoticed, and thus to predict disease emergence in advance of outbreaks -- an important goal for stemming future zoonotic disease risks," researchers wrote. (4/22) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2013/04/which-primate-is-the-most-likely-source-of-the-next-pandemic/>

[**2 more viruses added to list of pathogens harbored by bats**](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/04/23/3742668.htm)

Scientists recently discovered that bats harbor hepaciviruses and pegiviruses, adding to the already long list of viruses bats carry, including SARS and lyssaviruses. The risk from bats isn't as great as influenza risk to humans, says evolutionary biologist Edward Holmes, because most bat viruses require an intermediate host before becoming a concern for humans. (4/23) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2013/04/23/3742668.htm>

[**Therapy dogs help Texas schoolchildren cope after explosion**](http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130422-schools-reopen-in-west-with-counselors-therapy-dogs-on-hand.ece)

After a blast at a Texas fertilizer plant destroyed West Intermediate School, therapy dogs were on hand to help the students transition back to school at a new location. The explosion occurred after children had been sent home for the day. Counselors and donations are also helping the children and parents cope. (4/22) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130422-schools-reopen-in-west-with-counselors-therapy-dogs-on-hand.ece>

[**H7N9 moves from birds to humans with relative ease, WHO says**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/24/us-birdflu-china-idUSBRE93L0EF20130424)

H7N9, the newly identified avian influenza strain that has so far infected scores of people and killed more than 20, passes between birds and humans more easily than the H5N1 strain that surfaced in 2003, according to the World Health Organization. After a weeklong investigation, a team of global researchers believe exposure to live ducks and chickens at poultry markets is associated with transmission. Of concern is the fact that birds generally don't display clear symptoms, but closing some poultry markets appears to have decreased new human cases. (4/24) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/24/us-birdflu-china-idUSBRE93L0EF20130424>

[**Brucellosis, bovine TB study highlights one health connections**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130423091039.htm)

A study of cattle in Niger found that brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis pose threats to animals and humans there, but better cooperation between animal and human health officials can help minimize transmission of disease. Brucellosis occurred in about 13% of cattle herds, while roughly 1% of cows tested had bovine TB. Risk of transmission to humans was linked to consumption of unpasteurized milk, poor human hygiene, coughing animals and lack of quarantine. (4/23) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/04/130423091039.htm>

[**Disease surveillance capacity has grown in decade since SARS**](http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/Surveillance/38611)

The SARS epidemic 10 years ago gave rise to faster, more advanced and more efficient ways to recognize and monitor zoonotic infectious diseases with pandemic potential. The outbreak spurred the World Health Organization to overhaul its regulations, said physician James Hughes, who at the time led the CDC's National Center for Infectious Diseases. Health professionals and researchers are better able to quickly identify pathogens, isolate patients suspected to be infected, prevent inter-country transmission of disease and share information between countries. However, many nations have yet to fully comply with the WHO regulations. (4/22) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/Surveillance/38611>

[**Bartonella research pioneer proposes addition to Koch’s postulates**](http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-04-bartonellosis-stealth-pathogen.html)

Decades of research on Bartonella bacteria, which are difficult to detect and can live for extended periods within the body, led North Carolina State University veterinarian Ed Breitschwerdt to propose a fifth criterion be added to Koch's postulates that addresses a one health perspective on infectious diseases. Bartonella species infect humans and animals and cause myriad nonspecific symptoms that often complicate diagnosis and treatment, according to Dr. Breitschwerdt. If researchers could show a common pathology in different species, they'd have further evidence that stealth pathogens are indeed causative agents, suggest Dr. Breitschwerdt and his colleagues. (4/24) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-04-bartonellosis-stealth-pathogen.html>

[**First case of H7N9 outside China is confirmed**](http://www.medicaldaily.com/articles/14866/20130424/bird-flu-spreading-first-case-outside-china.htm)

Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Center confirmed H7N9 avian influenza in a Taiwanese man who was recently in China, marking the first documented case of the virus outside mainland China. The man reportedly is in isolation and has severe symptoms. More than 100 people with known exposure to the man are being observed for signs of illness, and three of the health care workers who have come into contact with the patient have developed upper-respiratory infection symptoms. No cases of human-to-human transmission have been confirmed. (4/25) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.medicaldaily.com/articles/14866/20130424/bird-flu-spreading-first-case-outside-china.htm>

[**Colorado vets note uptick in canine marijuana toxicity**](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_23095971/colorado-veterinary-clinics-see-increase-dogs-ingesting-marijuana)

Between 2005 and 2010, cases of marijuana toxicity in pets in Colorado increased fourfold, mirroring the uptick in human medical marijuana users, according to a study by the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital. Colorado veterinarians continue to see more dogs ill after ingesting marijuana, which the state now allows people to possess in small amounts. Marijuana in dogs causes agitation, incoordination and may lead to seizures, coma or death in severe cases. "Put it away, out of reach," veterinarian Natalie Adams said of the drug. "Once [dogs] got into it once, they will be repeat offenders." (4/24) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_23095971/colorado-veterinary-clinics-see-increase-dogs-ingesting-marijuana>

[**Unpasteurized cheese sickens 13 Minn. Residents**](http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/204570561.html)

Thirteen people have become ill with salmonellosis from eating a raw Mexican-style cheese, queso fresco. Officials are warning people of the health risks of eating unpasteurized dairy products. MDH has confirmed 11 cases of infection with Salmonella Typhimurium. Eight were hospitalized.  (4/24) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/204570561.html>

[**Llamas help convalescing seniors**](http://www.slate.com/blogs/behold/2013/04/24/jen_osbourne_llama_love_follows_therapy_llamas_around_a_rehab_center_photos.html)

By her own account, Canadian photographer [Jen Osborne](http://www.jenosbornestudio.com/) has created a photo essay in *Colors* magazine last January to document therapy llamas on the job a Washington state rehabilitation center. "It seems normal to be surrounding old people with strange, beautiful animals," she said. (4/24) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.slate.com/blogs/behold/2013/04/24/jen_osbourne_llama_love_follows_therapy_llamas_around_a_rehab_center_photos.html>

[**Live poultry confirmed to be at least one source of H7N9**](http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/04/26/new-bird-flu-study-clears-up-key-question-but-raises-others/)

A new study of H7N9, the avian influenza virus that has infected more than 100 people in China, reports that the pathogen is directly transmitted from live poultry to humans. The data, derived from a study of viral genetic material, suggest stemming human infections will require controlling the spread of the virus in poultry, experts said. However, exposure to poultry apparently isn't the only route of infection because 40% of people with the virus had no apparent contact with poultry. The new study confirms previous findings that the virus has mutated in ways that facilitate its infection of humans.  (4/25) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2013/04/26/new-bird-flu-study-clears-up-key-question-but-raises-others/>

[**Pets suffer from allergies, too**](http://www.indystar.com/article/20130425/LIFE02/304250043/Allergies-They-don-t-just-hit-humans?nclick_check=1)

Dogs can suffer from allergies to fleas, environmental allergens and more, and the issues may manifest as skin problems. Cats also develop allergies, but they usually exhibit gastrointestinal symptoms, according to veterinarian Jules Benson of Petplan. Allergy testing is available for pets, and treatments are aimed at alleviating the discomfort associated with allergies, since, just like in humans, they can't be cured. (4/25) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.indystar.com/article/20130425/LIFE02/304250043/Allergies-They-don-t-just-hit-humans?nclick_check=1>

[**U.K. officials worry vCJD threat isn’t over**](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/10024078/Mad-cow-infected-blood-to-kill-1000.html)

It's estimated that 30,000 people in the U.K. could be silent carriers of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and health officials warn they could spread the infectious prions to others via blood transfusions. A total of 176 people in the U.K. died of vCJD after eating infected beef amid an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and millions of cattle were slaughtered to stem the disease. While they note that the beef supply is safe, officials are considering several measures to prevent the spread of prions via blood transfusions. (4/28) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/10024078/Mad-cow-infected-blood-to-kill-1000.html>

[**Ohio budget cuts mean less monitoring of tick-borne zoonoses**](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/04/29/tick-diseases-a-concern-as-state-drops-tracking.html)

The elimination of insect surveillance at the state level has some experts and residents concerned about a gap in protecting public health, including monitoring the spread of ticks carrying Lyme disease. “This leaves the state totally defenseless to know where blacklegged deer ticks are located in Ohio,” said Glen Needham, an associate professor of entomology at Ohio State University. (4/29) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2013/04/29/tick-diseases-a-concern-as-state-drops-tracking.html>

[**Feral pigs proliferating while politicians stymied**](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/us/hunting-ranches-resist-efforts-to-curb-feral-swine.html?_r=0)

The feral pig population in the U.S. has ballooned from less than 2 million pigs in 20 states in 1990 to 6 million pigs in 47 states, with a permanent presence in 38 states, according to scientists with the Savannah River National Laboratory. The pigs, an invasive species likely escaped from hunting ranches, cause some $1.5 billion in agricultural damage annually, damage ecosystems and pose a disease threat. State lawmakers are trying to catch up with the problem by legislating hunting and trapping practices, but they face opposition from game ranch owners, and efforts are often too little, too late to stem the tide of destructive pigs. (4/27) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/28/us/hunting-ranches-resist-efforts-to-curb-feral-swine.html?_r=0>

[**Salmonella tied to frogs prompts call for education of children, families**](http://www.healio.com/pediatrics/emerging-diseases/news/online/%7B1d1181a0-8277-472c-ae44-92da2276ab96%7D/clinicians-urged-to-warn-patients-about-pet-frogs-salmonella-risk)

A nationwide outbreak of Salmonella typhimurium that occurred between 2008 and 2011 was linked to African dwarf frogs. Therefore, researchers for a recent study are advising pediatricians to ask patients and their parents about exposure to these frogs and other amphibians. (4/29) Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief. <http://www.healio.com/pediatrics/emerging-diseases/news/online/%7B1d1181a0-8277-472c-ae44-92da2276ab96%7D/clinicians-urged-to-warn-patients-about-pet-frogs-salmonella-risk>

[**Juvenile sharks aren’t harmed by high chemical levels, study finds**](http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_23139242/csulb-study-baby-great-white-sharks-show-ddt)

Baby great white sharks caught off the coast of California have the greatest known levels of DDT and second-greatest polychlorinated biphenyl levels of any shark species, but they don't appear to exhibit any signs of problems from the chemicals, according to recent research. The contaminant levels were so high in the juvenile sharks that researchers hypothesized that adult females ingest the chemicals via the food chain and then pass the toxins on to their offspring. (5/1) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_23139242/csulb-study-baby-great-white-sharks-show-ddt>

[**Aflatoxin prompts recall of commercial wildlife feed**](http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/05/01/deer-corn-tests-positive-for-aflatoxins/)

Aflatoxin levels exceeded the USDA's threshold for safe consumption in some bags of Rural King's Deer Corn wildlife feed, so the company has removed the product from shelves in seven states. In addition to animals, humans can be harmed by aflatoxin dust. (5/1) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2013/05/01/deer-corn-tests-positive-for-aflatoxins/>

[**Lap chickens: Poultry roost in animal owners’ homes and hearts**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/04/30/180135026/chicken-diapers-urban-farming-spawns-accessory-lines)

Increasingly, people are keeping chickens not only in backyard coops, but also in the house, and they're doing so for companionship in some cases rather than agricultural purposes. Businesses have cropped up to supply these pampered birds with diapers, saddles (protective garments for hens during mating), gourmet treats and more. Although just 0.8% of Denver, Los Angeles, Miami and New York City homes had the birds in 2010, 4% have plans to obtain feathered friends, and Backyard Poultry magazine has a wide readership. (5/1) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2013/04/30/180135026/chicken-diapers-urban-farming-spawns-accessory-lines>

[**H7N9 claims 4 more lives as new cases surface**](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-05-06/news/sns-rt-us-birdflu-chinabre946023-20130506_1_bird-flu-chinese-health-authorities-h7n9-strain)

With four more human deaths in China, the death toll from H7N9 has reached 31, and 129 people have been infected since March, according to Chinese health officials. Transmission from poultry to humans has been confirmed. No evidence of human-to-human transmission exists, but 40% of infected people had no known direct exposure to poultry. According to the CDC, the current form of H7N9 will not cause a pandemic, but if it mutates, it could pose a serious global threat. (5/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-05-06/news/sns-rt-us-birdflu-chinabre946023-20130506_1_bird-flu-chinese-health-authorities-h7n9-strain>

[**MRSA strain found repeatedly in 25% of veterinarians tested**](http://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/zoonotic-infections/news/online/%7B875B48C8-5815-46A2-88BB-D5D3581AD193%7D/Strain-of-MRSA-associated-with-animal-husbandry-prevalent-among-vets)

Livestock veterinarians commonly carry a strain of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus known as CC398, according to a Dutch study that collected samples from the oropharynx and anterior nares of 137 participating veterinarians. "The mean prevalence of MRSA CC398 carriage was 44%, and for S. aureus, the prevalence was 72%," researchers wrote, noting about one-quarter of individuals tested were always found to harbor the pathogen. (5/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.healio.com/infectious-disease/zoonotic-infections/news/online/%7B875B48C8-5815-46A2-88BB-D5D3581AD193%7D/Strain-of-MRSA-associated-with-animal-husbandry-prevalent-among-vets>

[**Dogs learning to pick up cancer’s signature scent**](http://www.philly.com/philly/health/At_Penn_dogs_will_sniff_out_ovarian_cancer.html)

The University of Pennsylvania and the Monell Chemical Senses Center are training three dogs to help detect compounds produced by ovarian cancer, providing a possible way to detect the disease in its earliest, most treatable stages. Early-stage ovarian cancer, which has a 90% survival rate, is difficult to detect, and later stages carry a worse prognosis and kill 14,000 U.S. women annually. The Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation is funding the research with an $80,000 grant. (5/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.philly.com/philly/health/At_Penn_dogs_will_sniff_out_ovarian_cancer.html>

[**Aging bunkers to harbor bats in fight against white-nose syndrome**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22354517)

Scientists have renovated two Cold War bunkers at a former Air Force base in Maine to serve as artificial hibernacula for bats in an effort to protect the animals from white-nose syndrome, a killer fungal disease that has spread across 22 states and five Canadian provinces, killing some 6.7 million bats. Unlike caves, the bunkers can be disinfected after the bats leave. The move reflects a shift in efforts to fight the disease, said endangered species biologist Ann Froschauer: "Our best bet now is to work towards how we can contain the disease.” (5/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22354517>

[**Dogs to help keep invasive species out of Minn. Waterways**](http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/05/07/environment/zebra-mussel-dog-inspectors)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has trained three dogs to find invasive zebra mussels that have hitched a ride on boats. The program is modeled after one in California that found dogs can detect zebra and quagga mussels at five to 15 times the speed of human inspectors. "The dogs are going to be able to inspect watercraft and vessels a lot faster than humans, and a lot of times more successfully because they're using their nose instead of their eyes," said DNR conservation officer Travis Muyres. (5/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/05/07/environment/zebra-mussel-dog-inspectors>

[**Riding into a brighter future**](http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/News/ReCHAI_riding_2013.html)

Veterinarians are teaming up with veterans in an effort to better understand the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding and how the therapy might help military personnel deal with and overcome the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. A study being conducted at the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and funded through a grant by the Horses and Humans Research Foundation will examine the effects of six weeks of [therapeutic riding](http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/20775771:22763633737:m:1:2008126168:4AF97692BD2D53E09FA3FDDA93EA1DC2:r) on 40 U.S. military veterans with PTSD and/or traumatic brain injury. The community-based study takes an innovative approach to treating the conditions, which affect as many as one-in-five Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. (4/2) Acquired from AVMA Health News Bytes. <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/News/ReCHAI_riding_2013.html>

[**Fears emerge that SARS-like coronavirus passes between humans**](http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn23503-threatwatch-is-the-saudi-virus-a-new-sars.html)

Eight health care workers who became ill after treating people who may have had a recently identified SARS-like coronavirus could be an indication that the virus is transmissible from person to person. Two of those workers died. The International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses has suggested the virus be called "Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus," reflecting the fact infections have been connected to the Middle East. Scientists are considering sero-surveillance to determine the public's exposure to the virus. (5/8) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn23503-threatwatch-is-the-saudi-virus-a-new-sars.html>

[**Study: Cancer-linked herbicide found in dogs**](http://news.discovery.com/animals/pets/dogs-absorb-lawn-chemicals-130508.htm)

Commonly used residential herbicides that have been linked to cancer in dogs and people are picked up by dogs and put people around them at risk, according to new research from Purdue University's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Certain breeds with a higher incidence of bladder cancer may be more at risk from the chemicals. "The likelihood that children, who share the local environment with their pets, are similarly exposed to these chemicals is high and thus additional studies should be conducted to evaluate this possibility," said veterinarian and epidemiology expert John Reif. (5/8) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://news.discovery.com/animals/pets/dogs-absorb-lawn-chemicals-130508.htm>

[**Giant snail carries potentially deadly zoonosis**](http://www.click2houston.com/news/giant-diseasespreading-snails-found-in-houston/-/1735978/20042282/-/w8b78t/-/index.html)

The appearance of giant African snails in the Houston area has residents and public health experts concerned about a deadly zoonotic disease. The snails may carry rat lungworms, a type of roundworm the snails are believed to pick up from rat feces. The parasites can cause a potentially deadly form of meningitis in humans, and health officials are urging people to stay away from the snails and thoroughly wash their hands if they touch one. (5/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/giant-diseasespreading-snails-found-in-houston/-/1735978/20042282/-/w8b78t/-/index.html>

[**It’s time to end confusion over foot-and-mouth, businessman argues**](http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/Rename-FMD-206490021.html)

Speaking at the Foot and Mouth Disease Symposium, Hilmar Cheese owner Chuck Ahlem suggested using the name hoof-and-mouth disease instead of foot-and-mouth disease. The move would be an effort to combat the public's perception that FMD, which only affects animals, is the same as hand, foot and mouth disease, which infects humans. Misunderstanding of the terms is prevalent, according to research discussed by veterinarian Gay Miller that found 72% of American consumers think FMD is transmissible to humans, 61% believe they can be infected from meat, and 42% would stop consuming milk if an outbreak of FMD occurred. (5/7) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.dairyherd.com/dairy-news/Rename-FMD-206490021.html>

[**European experts consider context, solutions for emerging insect-borne illnesses**](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/260286.php)

Researchers believe that pest borne diseases such as Dengue Fever and the West Nile Virus, which already pose a serious threat to all countries in the European continent, are now a significant cause for concern in the U.K**.**Stagnant floodwater is already increasing the prevalence of mosquitoes, and the movement of wild deer is increasing the presence of infected ticks, making the spread of pest borne diseases all the more worrisome, warns the Wales director of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. (5/8) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/260286.php>

[**Animal friends appear to help human hearts**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/09/pets-heart-health/2148495/)

Pet owners can add "heart health" to the list of reasons they love their animals. According to the American Heart Association, owning a pet is associated with more physical activity, lower blood pressure, better lipid levels and better acute coronary syndrome survival. "Pet ownership is an important nonhuman form of social support and may provide cardioprotective benefits in patients with established" cardiovascular disease, according to the AHA. (5/9) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/05/09/pets-heart-health/2148495/>

[**Life amid emerging disease: Family hit hard by coronavirus**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-coronavirus-ahsabre94b07j-20130512,0,2681231.story)

An emerging SARS-related coronavirus that has killed 18 people in the Middle East and Europe has taken an especially serious toll on one Saudi Arabian family, with two suspected cases, one confirmed case and one death. The cases add to the growing belief that the disease may spread between people, but only those with sustained close contact, experts say. However, there is no evidence of "generalized transmission in communities," said Keiji Fukuda, assistant director-general of the World Health Organization. (5/12) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-coronavirus-ahsabre94b07j-20130512,0,2681231.story>

[**France confirms second case of new coronavirus**](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57584098/another-coronavirus-case-confirmed-in-france/)

A second man in France was diagnosed with the SARS-related coronavirus that is believed to have killed 18 people. The man shared a hospital room with the man infected in France's first case. French health authorities are distributing warnings and symptom information at airports and urging the public to remain calm but stay alert. (5/12) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57584098/another-coronavirus-case-confirmed-in-france/>

[**Study IDs more than 500 influenza strains with pandemic potential in birds and swine**](http://in.news.yahoo.com/flu-strains-circulating-pigs-birds-show-pandemic-potential-054530710.html)

A new study from MIT led by an Indian origin scientist has identified influenza viruses circulating in pigs andbirds that could pose a risk to humans. In the summer of 1968, a new strain of influenza appeared in Hong Kong. This strain, known as H3N2, spread around the globe and eventually killed an estimated 1 million people. (5/11) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://in.news.yahoo.com/flu-strains-circulating-pigs-birds-show-pandemic-potential-054530710.html>

[**Kitten develops rabies; family and pet dog exposed**](http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/05/10/4034922/plaza-midwood-house-pet-tests.html)

A 6-week-old household kitten in North Carolina tested positive for rabies after developing severe neurological symptoms. Veterinarian Margurette Straley suspected rabies after the animal hadn't eaten for three days and exhibited neurological problems including exaggerated coordination deficits, growling and hissing. "Once an animal reaches this stage, they are no longer in control and will randomly bite and scratch anything nearby," Dr. Straley said. The kitten was euthanized. Its owners are undergoing post-exposure prophylaxis, and their dog has been placed under quarantine. (5/10) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2013/05/10/4034922/plaza-midwood-house-pet-tests.html>

[**Owning a dog is linked to reduced heart risk**](http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/09/heart-association-weighs-in-on-pets/?ref=health)

A new message is being portrayed through the nation’s largest cardiovascular health organization: Owning a dog may protect you from heart disease.

The unusual message was contained in a scientific statement published on Thursday by the American Heart Association, which convened a panel of experts to review years of data on the cardiovascular benefits of owning a pet. The group concluded that owning a dog, in particular, was “probably associated” with a reduced risk of heart disease. (5/9) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/09/heart-association-weighs-in-on-pets/?ref=health>

[**Med students taught bedside manner using horses**](http://www.today.com/video/today/51787475#51787475)

For America’s next generation of doctors, bedside manner can fall by the wayside in the first few years of medical school. But one doctor in Arizona is hoping to change that by offering a first-of-its-kind class using horses to instill compassion. NBC’s Dr. Nancy Snyderman reports in this online video. (5/6) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.today.com/video/today/51787475#51787475>

[**Lyme vaccine for humans does well in trials**](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/260471.php)

A novel vaccine for Lyme disease led to the production of antibodies against the borrelia organisms that cause the disease in the U.S. and Europe, without sparking major side effects, according to new research. The vaccine must undergo Phase III trials, but the research team is hopeful it will become a tool to help prevent Lyme disease in people. Dogs and humans contract Lyme disease from ticks, and the incidence of Lyme disease in the U.S. is increasing. (5/14) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/260471.php>

[**Can waste save the world? Veterinarian says it can**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/bodily-waste-from-animals-and-humans-can-help-solve-the-energy-crisis-author-says/2013/05/13/660f12d2-b359-11e2-baf7-5bc2a9dc6f44_story.html)

In his book "The Origin of Feces," veterinarian and epidemiologist David Waltner-Toews argues that using animal and human waste to create energy is a key route to global sustainability. Dr. Waltner-Toews cites several examples of how humans can capitalize on waste, including converting cow dung in Nepal and India into energy and using dog feces in Massachusetts to fuel a street light. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/bodily-waste-from-animals-and-humans-can-help-solve-the-energy-crisis-author-says/2013/05/13/660f12d2-b359-11e2-baf7-5bc2a9dc6f44_story.html>

[**H7N9 toll climbs: 35 deaths, 130 infections**](http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-china-bird-flubre94c0ht-20130513,0,1056601.story)

Three more people have died in China from the new strain of H7N9 bird flu virus, raising the death toll to 35 while the total number of infections rose to 130, state media said on Monday. Without giving details of the deaths, Xinhua news agency said a new case of the H7N9, described by the World Health Organization as one of the most lethal flu viruses around, was found in China's east Jiangxi province. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.chicagotribune.com/health/sns-rt-us-china-bird-flubre94c0ht-20130513,0,1056601.story>

[**Therapy animals can be the best medicine**](http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/prescription-pups-benefits-therapy-dogs/nXp3w/)

Therapy dogs have been shown to decrease cortisol levels in children with autism and ameliorate pain in chronic pain patients, according to this report. The video features the story of how a therapy dog helps one war veteran cope with severe pain and physical therapy after debilitating injuries incurred when he stepped on an explosive device. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/prescription-pups-benefits-therapy-dogs/nXp3w/>

[**Disease monitoring: Technology advances, but challenges remain**](http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/05/12/2879998/professor-monitors-infectious.html)

Infectious disease specialist Tara Smith says landscape and lifestyle changes around the world mean diseases travel faster than ever, but technology has provided many new tools for discovering and monitoring such pathogens. Yet monitoring everywhere at once is still difficult: "The hard part is knowing what's going on in places where people don't have a health care contact -- rural Africa or even in rural Iowa," Smith says. (5/12) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/05/12/2879998/professor-monitors-infectious.html>

[**UN report says insects are nutritious food source**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/05/13/united-nations-insects-food/2155297/)

Pass the cicadas -- a United Nations report calls for bringing bugs to your next picnic. On the menu that is. Along with providing a satisfying crunch, "Insects are a highly nutritious and healthy food source with high fat, protein, vitamin, fiber and mineral content," says the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization report released in Rome on Monday. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/05/13/united-nations-insects-food/2155297/>

[**Fight the spread of canine Lyme disease**](http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/ArchiveServlet?issueid=BDF659F8-A41D-4287-A5DB-D7F8FA77508B&lmid=archives)

Canine Lyme disease is no longer just a threat to dogs in the Northeast or North-Central U.S. (often called "endemic areas"). Lyme disease is growing fast -- infected dogs have been found in all 48 contiguous states. In many states, infection is not likely, but dogs living or traveling in the endemic areas and the growing expansion areas are at risk.  This informational page provides resources to learn more. (5/16) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www2.smartbrief.com/servlet/ArchiveServlet?issueid=BDF659F8-A41D-4287-A5DB-D7F8FA77508B&lmid=archives>

[**Could H7N9 reach pandemic proportions?**](http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/URItheFlu/39100)

H7N9 fits two out of three criteria of a pandemic pathogen, according to physician Andrew Pavia of the University of Utah. He says the virus infects and causes disease in humans but seems to lack the ability to easily pass between them, although that could change as it mutates. If H7N9 does become easily transmissible between people, it has the potential to be worse than the 2003 H5N1 influenza outbreak. "Being worried doesn't do us any good; being prepared is what's important," said Pavia, emphasizing the need for monitoring and public health resources. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/URItheFlu/39100>

[**Leptospirosis discovered in Africa’s banded mongoose**](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130514122756.htm)

Scientists have discovered that the banded mongoose population in Africa carries Leptospira interrogans, a zoonotic pathogen that causes leptospirosis. Because these animals live in close proximity to humans and are considered a food source, the mongoose may be an unidentified source of leptospirosis in humans, according to researchers. "The transmission of infectious diseases from wildlife to humans represents a serious and growing public health risk due to increasing contact between humans and animals," said Alan Tessier of the National Science Foundation. (5/14) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.*

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130514122756.htm>

[**Saudi Arabia reports more emerging coronavirus infections**](http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/14/18249422-saudi-arabia-confirms-four-new-cases-of-coronavirus?lite)

Saudi Arabia has confirmed four new cases of the SARS-like novel coronavirus in its Eastern Province, state media reported late on Monday, citing the health ministry.

The health ministry said one of the four new cases had been treated and the patient had been released from hospital, the Saudi Press Agency reported.  (5/14) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/14/18249422-saudi-arabia-confirms-four-new-cases-of-coronavirus?lite>

[**CDC: West Nile virus is here to stay**](http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/13/18232095-2012-was-deadliest-year-for-west-nile-in-us-cdc-says?lite)

West Nile virus killed 286 people in the United States last year, making it the deadliest year yet for the virus, the federal government reported on Monday. Texas was especially hard hit by the virus, which is carried by mosquitoes and which only arrived in the United States in 1999, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports. (5/13) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://vitals.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/05/13/18232095-2012-was-deadliest-year-for-west-nile-in-us-cdc-says?lite>

[**Veterinarians have many tools to protect against tick-borne illness**](http://www.chicagonow.com/steve-dales-pet-world/2013/05/ticks-are-a-health-threat-we-can-protect-dogs-better-than-people/)

Ticks carry diseases that affect humans and canines, but dogs fare better when it comes to detection and prevention. A rapid blood test identifies Lyme disease, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis in dogs. Vaccines are also available to help protect dogs from Lyme disease, while tick-protection products help keep ticks from biting in the first place. Parasitologist and veterinarian Michael Dryden urges owners to have at-risk dogs vaccinated and emphasizes the importance of choosing the right tick-prevention product. (5/14) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.chicagonow.com/steve-dales-pet-world/2013/05/ticks-are-a-health-threat-we-can-protect-dogs-better-than-people/>

[**Avian Influenza spreads across Mexico**](http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/28882/avian-influenza-spreads-across-mexico)

The highly pathogenic H7N3 Avian Influenza virus is spreading quickly across central Mexico, much to the frustration of the Mexican poultry industry. Chris Wright, writing for the ThePoultrySite, reports on the ANECA meeting held last week in Mexico. (5/7)*Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.thepoultrysite.com/poultrynews/28882/avian-influenza-spreads-across-mexico>

[**Why are feral pigs so hard to control?**](http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/05/economist-explains-why-feral-pigs-hard-control)

On May 23rd, the United States Department of Agriculture will [meet to discuss](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/feral_swine/index.shtml) the pressing topic of feral pigs. Whether wallowing in cool water or ruining a farmer's crops, these beasts, which number 6m or so, are an increasing nuisance. At their worst, they can damage crops, spread diseases, attack humans and kill livestock. (5/15) *Acquired from Animal Health Smartbrief.* <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2013/05/economist-explains-why-feral-pigs-hard-control>