**One Health News Bits**

**February 22, 2011**

[**Study: Satellite monitoring can help predict hantavirus outbreaks**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BfxodjhChsdrgEwQfDaefcfCAKru?format=standard)

U.S. researchers say satellite monitoring of vegetation could aid in determining potential outbreaks of hantavirus, which is transmitted by mice through their feces or urine. In their study, researchers found that the number of deer mice infected with a hantavirus strain called Sin Nombre increased after surges in growth of vegetation palatable to the mice.

[**Study provides more clues on malaria parasite mechanism**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BfxodjhChsdrgExAfDaefcfCPrmx?format=standard)

A British study published in the American Naturalist found that the malaria parasite changes its attack mechanism once it enters a victim's bloodstream and is faced with another infectious strain. Instead of producing cells that can be transmitted to a mosquito, the parasite will produce cells that can multiply quickly and infect the blood. "Our results explain a long-standing puzzle of parasite behavior," a researcher said.

[**AVMA outlines H1N1 symptoms in people, animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BfxodjhChsdrgEBkfDaefcfCOlLq?format=standard)

According to AVMA, clinical signs of H1N1 in people are similar to human respiratory flu, and may include gastrointestinal side effects such as vomiting and diarrhea. Current data show that animals who contracted H1N1 became infected following an owner's flu-like illness, with the pets exhibiting either mild respiratory symptoms or no symptoms at all.

[**Fish's self-healing cells could play a role in reversing blindness in humans**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BgxAdjhChsdrjYpwfDaefcfCNWkP?format=standard)

What heals the eyes of tiny fish might point the way to helping heal human eyes of damaging diseases that are major causes of blindness, said researchers at Georgia Health Sciences University.

[**How do wild animals become domesticated?**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BgxAdjhChsdrjYrcfDaefcfCxkHL?format=standard)

A National Geographic article that posits that suburbanization and increasingly close proximity to people have served to domesticate wild animals sparked this posting. Photos that ran with the article offer looks at several species including breeding experiments that created anger in lab rats, the wolves that were the ancestors of all modern-day dogs and a pet fox in Russia that plays happily with people and the family dog.

[**The rewards and risks of sharing a bed with pets**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BgxAdjhChsdrjYrofDaefcfCzppM?format=standard)

Large numbers of America's pet owners routinely allow their pets to sleep in their beds each night, taking especial comfort in the contact when they're sick, lonely or depressed, studies show. The CDC advises pet owners to take precautions when allowing dogs and cats to share a bed, citing several zoonotic diseases the can be transmitted from pets to their owners.

[**Experts warn about the hazards posed by human drugs to animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BgxAdjhChsdrjYrAfDaefcfCCOwz?format=standard)

It's a common story; a pet getting into, or chewing, something it shouldn't. If that something is medication, the results can be dangerous or deadly.

[**Researchers explore benefits of including omega-3 in equine, pet diets**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BgxAdjhChsdrjYucfDaefcfCIsEx?format=standard)

More research is being conducted into the benefits of including omega-3 fatty acids in horse feed. According to this article, switching out starches, common in equine feeds, with fat can help relieve tying up and help regulate metabolic syndrome. This article also references a recent study that appeared in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association examining the health effects of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation in dogs with osteoarthritis of the hip or stifle.

[**Unlocking bears' metabolism secrets could benefit human medicine**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BhxMdjhChsdrnnaUfDaefcfCkmRT?format=standard)

U.S. researchers have found that a bear lowers its metabolism 75% during hibernation, but its body temperature barely falls, which they say could be because of the animal's thick fur and its periodic shivering. Researchers say finding a way to make people more like a hibernating bear could lead to advancements in human medicine.