**One Health News Bits**

**February 23, 2011**

[**Researchers develop compound that could block MRSA infections**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BdvkdjhChsdqAIgwfDaefcfCihMM?format=standard)

A study in the PLoS Pathogens journal finds that mice were able to survive methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections after receiving RNPA1000, a compound that attacks a molecule that enables the superbug to flourish. Researchers say they hope to advance the treatment to human clinical trials.

[**Wildlife and environment face mounting dangers**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmoofDaefcfCSCfn?format=standard)

The environment is facing a crisis that poses a serious threat to wildlife populations. Evidence of these dangers include the recent decline of honeybee colonies in the U.S., the deaths of at least 1 million North American bats because of white-nose syndrome, and the large number of game animals and fish that died as a result of the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. [The Columbus Dispatch (Ohio)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmoofDaefcfCSCfn?format=standard) (1/2)

[**Study ties finger sores in 2 deer hunters to parapoxvirus strain**](http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2010/12/31/132484549/deer-get-revenge-with-a-pox-on-2-hunters?ft=1&f=1007)

A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests the virus that caused two U.S. hunters to develop strange finger sores after dressing harvested white-tailed deer belongs to a family of parapoxviruses, which affect cattle and other animals and can be passed on to people. Although the virus is unlikely to cause serious health issues in both deer and humans, it can cause trouble for people who have weak immune systems, the study noted. [National Public Radio/Shots blog](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmpkfDaefcfCjnIr?format=standard) (12/30)

[**Experts in Japan say rare birds have contracted bird flu**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmpwfDaefcfCqWou?format=standard)

An increase in the number of birds infected with avian flu in various locations across the country this winter has left experts at a loss about how to deal with the problem.Five nabezuru (hooded cranes) have been found to have been infected with bird flu on the Izumi Plain in Kagoshima Prefecture. The situation poses a dilemma for local officials and specialists because the crane is a species designated for special protection by the national government. There is no law or rule that defines how to deal with rare species of migratory birds infected with avian flu.

**[Experts: Dogs fill a void in people's lives](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmpIfDaefcfCzZDf?format=standard" \t "_blank)**

Data from the American Pet Products Association show that U.S. owners spent about $47.7 billion last year on their pets, particularly on their dogs. Dogs, in turn, provide their owners a range of benefits such as enriching their relationships, relieving them from stress and filling a large void in their lives, experts say. [The Arizona Republic (Phoenix)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AtjUdjhChsdmAmpIfDaefcfCzZDf?format=standard) (1/2)

[**Do Dogs Giggle?**](http://www.virbacvet.com/qlba/do_dogs_giggle/)

Many pet owners claim that their dog’s open-mouthed, goofy expression indicates their dog is actually laughing. But is it really true? According to Patricia Simonet, a Cognitive Ethologist and Animal Behaviorist at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, dogs do laugh but it doesn’t sound like a human’s laugh. It’s actually a rhythmic pant. She describes it as “hee, hee, hee” without the “ee.” In a dog’s world, a dog laughs to initiate play. This stimulus is so strong people can initiate play with dogs just by imitating a dog’s version of a laugh. One research study\* showed that when a recording of a dog’s laugh was played at an animal shelter, it helped reduce stress behaviors in all of the resident dogs. Even small puppies reacted by starting to play!

# [Central Illinois bull tests positive for rabies](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/article_d8149300-2b5e-11e0-a3de-001cc4c002e0.html)

# SPRINGFIELD — For the first time in six years, state officials are reporting that a domesticated animal has tested positive for rabies, prompting health officials to remind people to vaccinate their pets and livestock. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Department of Agriculture, a bull pastured in eastern Macon County developed signs of rabies on Jan. 24.

# [Report about health risk of sharing bed with cats, dogs? More bark than bite](http://www.mlive.com/living/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/01/report_about_health_risk_of_sh.html)

# If you ask me, the study about the risk of sleeping with pets has more bark than bite. There are no solid numbers available to document just how many instances of pet-to-human diseases have occurred. If acquiring an infectious disease from snuggling with our pets were that easy, we’d have an epidemic on our hands.

# [Professor tries to make knee replacements less bionic](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/health/2014041884_knee27.html)

# The professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Missouri said he thought he and team members were on the brink of changing the way the human knee was replaced. The goal, Cook said, "is to put metal and plastic joints out of business." He wants to take the joint replacement process from bionics to biological. The concept? Biological cartilage, specifically grown from stem cells outside the body and then

# shaped for insertion into the knee.

[**Rabies-ridden bats just a myth, Calgary scientists find**](http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Rabies+ridden+bats+just+myth+Calgary+scientists+find/4197829/story.html#ixzz1CjU94KrS)

They might have a creepy-crawly reputation, but bats aren't so bad after all, a new University of Calgary study claims. In an article published in the Journal of Wildlife Disease, U of C researchers dispute the notion that the creatures of the night are riddled with rabies.

[**Livestock in U.S. gobble up the antibiotics**](http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/drugs/la-heb-antibiotics-121410,0,4660198.story)

Study suggests CWD prions in deer could spread to humans. Researchers say they replicated in a test tube how chronic wasting disease spreads among wild deer and found that deer prions were able to transform a normal human prion protein into an infectious one. "The jury is still out on whether CWD can go into humans," said a co-author of the study. "The more CWD is in the wild, the more virulent it may be to

humans."  Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[**ISU Veterinary Researcher Studies Neglected Tropical Diseases in Humans**](http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/drugs/la-heb-antibiotics-121410,0,4660198.story)

Richard Martin, DVM, PhD, a biomedical sciences professor at Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has devoted his 35-year career to studying nematode parasites. These parasites infect approximately one-quarter of the world population, producing debilitating symptoms that devastate the lives and economies of many of the world’s underdeveloped and impoverished areas.

[**Study finds baits could cut risk of raccoon roundworm infection**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AwgwdjhChsdnhypkfDaefcfCYBzP?format=standard)

The raccoon roundworm, *Baylisascaris procyonis*, is a very rare (18 known cases) but very dangerous zoonotic disease to affect humans.There are two factors that put people at risk for infection: 1) contact with raccoons, their feces, or the contaminated environment and 2) geophagia of pica.

[**Australia reports first human cases of cat-flea disease**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AwgwdjhChsdnhypwfDaefcfCgkfS?format=standard)

DOCTORS are urging people to keep their pets clean after discovering Australia's first case of a potentially fatal disease transmitted by cat fleas to humans. A team of doctors reported the discovery of cat-flea typhus in theMedical Journal of Australia this week after they carried out a lengthy investigation similar to those featured in the hit television series House.

[**Florida sees record number of manatee deaths in 2010**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AwgwdjhChsdnhyqQfDaefcfCOOrv?format=standard)

Frigid temperatures that started and ended 2010 proved deadly for manatees, contributing to a death toll much higher than the number seen each of the past five years. More dead manatees were found during the first four months of last year than in

all of 2009.

[**South Korea confirms 3 new cases of bird flu**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AyiAdjhChsdnpadUfDaefcfCuDDU?format=standard)

SEOUL — South Korea confirmed three new cases of bird flu on Sunday as the outbreak that began last month further hits farmers who are also battling the nation's worst-ever outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The agriculture ministry confirmed three new cases of the highly contagious virus at duck farms in the southwestern county of

Yeongam, bringing the total number of cases to seven since December 31.

[**Expert points to urgency of saving bats from white-nose syndrome**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AyiAdjhChsdnpaegfDaefcfCARJJ?format=standard)

In recent years bats have been under attack from a mysterious fungus known as White Nose Syndrome (WNS). It is so named due to the significant fungal growth around the nose and muzzles of afflicted bats. It was first discovered in 2006 in the state of New York and has spread ever since, reaching as far south as Tennessee, as far west as Oklahoma, and as far north as Quebec. It has been discovered in more than 115 caves and mines. Apparently the fungus (geomyces destructans) grows on the nose of bats in cold temperatures while they are hibernating for the winter. This causes the bats to

wake up from hibernation and subsequently starve to death.

[**Rabid raccoon marks first rabies case in N.J. area in 2011**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AyiAdjhChsdnpaesfDaefcfCIApM?format=standard)

A raccoon found on Wharf Road in Egg Harbor Township had the first confirmed case of rabies in Atlantic County this year, Health Officer Patricia Diamond said Friday. No

humans were exposed to the disease.

[**The role pets play in human lives should not be undervalued**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AyiAdjhChsdnpahgfDaefcfCKEXN?format=standard)

As a science-based organization, the American Veterinary Medical Association acknowledges the ambiguity of the science available to analyze the contributions of pets to human health cited in the article. The association would never suggest replacing a physician’s care with a pet; however, neither would we underestimate the major contributions that pets make to enrich our lives. Indeed, most of the comments posted online in response to Dr. Herzog’s article emotionally affirm the importance of pets in our lives. These comments mirror what veterinarians hear in their clinics every day.

[**2nd case of hantavirus in New Mexico county this year**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AzhsdjhChsdnshaUfDaefcfCcZus?format=standard)

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) - New Mexico health officials say a 51-year-old McKinley County woman is hospitalized in critical condition in Albuquerque with hantavirus pulmonary syndrome. The state Department of Health said Monday an investigation will be done to determine where she might have been exposed to the virus.

[**Pet's illness can lead to proper diagnosis of owner's disease**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AzhsdjhChsdnshbEfDaefcfCvPOL?format=standard)

Pets are often considered ‘man’s best friend,’ and in some cases, they’re the reason humans discover that they are sick! So-called ‘health sentinels’ can mean the difference in a human’s well-being.  Pets who are sick can sometimes provide clues about the cause of symptoms in humans.

[**Pandemic H1N1 found for the first time in U.K. turkeys**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AClAdjhChsdnwixofDaefcfCSoMw?format=standard)

THE swine flu virus, H1N1, has been found in poultry for the first time in the UK.

The virus was discovered on a farm in Cheshire during a routine disease investigation in turkeys that began over a fortnight ago.The investigation into a possible notifiable avian flu outbreak was instigated after a small number of turkeys showed mild signs of disease.

[**Germany to cull pigs after finding dioxin in pork**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AClAdjhChsdnwixYfDaefcfCpoMZ?format=standard)

The focus of Germany's dioxin animal feed scandal has switched from poultry to pigs with news that hundreds are to be slaughtered. High levels of dioxin were found in pigs early on Tuesday at a farm in the county of Verden, Lower Saxony, officials said. The farm had bought feed containing fats at the centre of the scandal.