**One Health News Bits**

**June 15, 2011**

[**Pa. Veterinary practice observes uptick in incidence of Lyme disease in pets**](http://www.timesleader.com/sports/All_pets_susceptible_06-05-2011.html)

“This dog was exposed to a tick with both diseases, and it was in Plains. It’s certainly spread from the mountains to the cities,” Ayers said, adding the increase in ticks and lyme disease has been gradually increasing over the last 12 years. Times Leader (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) (6/5)

[**Use of antibiotics in cows is debated as new MRSA strain emerges**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWbfBXzCwNCaaziKCidalECicNsVlP?format=standard)

Dairy farming leaders in the U.K. say the may re-examine their use of antibiotics as groups call for an end to excessive use of the drugs, which can promote the growth of drug-resistant bacteria such as a strain of MRSA that's beginning to emerge in cow's milk. Some farmers argue that they use the drugs according to instructions to prevent pain, suffering and miscarriages in their herds. [ThisIsDevon.co.uk (U.K.)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWbfBXzCwNCaaziKCidalECicNsVlP?format=standard) (6/6)

[**Senator seeks to intensify screening of meat supply for E. coli**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWeaBXzCwNCabuxCCidalECicNuoJF?format=standard)

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., has proposed a bill that would require meat production facilities to test their products for high-risk pathogens and E. coli strains in an effort to curb food-borne illnesses. Gillibrand also has asked the USDA to classify additional E. coli strains as contaminants. [FoodSafetyNews.com](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWeaBXzCwNCabuxCCidalECicNuoJF?format=standard) (6/8)

[**Vilsack is “reasonably confident” about E. coli in U.S.**](http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/food/safety/2011-06-07-Tom-Vilsack-e-coli-food-safety_n.htm)

U.S. consumers likely won't face an E. coli threat such as one in Europe, said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, adding that the outbreak "reinforces that we need to remain vigilant here about food safety." But public health experts said preventing outbreaks is difficult. "We are relying on state and local health departments to pick up these outbreaks, just like their equivalents in Europe," an expert said. [USA TODAY](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWeaBXzCwNCabuxECidalECicNxdCZ?format=standard) (6/6)

[**Chinese genomics giant BGI and UC Davis form partnership**](http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/printable_news.lasso?id=9911&table=news)

The University of California, Davis, and BGI, the world’s largest genome sequencing institute, agreed yesterday to form a partnership to conduct large-scale genome sequencing and functional genomics programs, focusing initially on the areas of food security; human and animal health and wellness; and biodiversity and environmental health. UC Davis (6/8)

[**Oregon cat contracts bubonic plague**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGokCidalECicNhquL?format=standard)

A 6-year-old cat in Prineville, Ore., was confirmed to have bubonic plague after a lab test, according to the state's public health veterinarian. The contagious illness, transmitted by fleas to rodents as well as humans and pets, may include signs such as fever and swollen lymph nodes. The illness was last detected in the state in a mule deer in 2005. [The Oregonian (Portland)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGokCidalECicNhquL?format=standard) (6/9)

**Veterinarians urge Lyme disease vaccine as tick population rises**

Veterinarians are recommending that pets be vaccinated against the deer tick because the number of pests carrying Lyme disease is on the rise in southeastern New Brunswick. [CBC.ca](http://CBC.ca/) (Canada) (6/9)

[**Some children get help from Fido to avoid food allergens**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGoqCidalECicNKqIm?format=standard)

More families across the U.S. are turning to dogs that are specially trained to track peanut products, tree nuts and other potential allergens to keep their children safe. The demand for allergy-sniffing dogs is on the rise as the number of U.S. children with food allergies continues to grow. [Google/The Associated Press](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGoqCidalECicNKqIm?format=standard) (6/9)

[**Group advises on benefits of exercising pet dogs**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGorCidalECicNLaTF?format=standard)

Pet owners who walking their dogs are also helping themselves manage their weight and blood pressure more effectively, according to the Society for Vascular Surgery. An NIH study involving 2,000 adults found that pet owners who routinely exercised their dogs were less likely to be obese than those who did not walk their dogs. The group also said petting dogs can help lower people's blood pressure and heart rate. [HealthDay News](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWknBXzCwNCadGorCidalECicNLaTF?format=standard) (6/9)

[**Researchers ID new H1N1 flu strain in Australia, Singapore**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWndBXzCwNCaeVbiCidalECicNoZEK?format=standard)

The 2009 H1N1 pandemic flu virus has evolved into a new strain with a genetic variation that allows it to resist drugs such as Relenza and Tamiflu, according to researchers with the World Health Organization. The researchers arrived at the conclusion after at least 10% of the H1N1 flu infections in Singapore and 30% of those in Australia studied early this year exhibited mildly lower sensitivity to the two drugs. [Bloomberg](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWndBXzCwNCaeVbiCidalECicNoZEK?format=standard) (6/9)

[**Ongoing antibiotic debate weighs food needs vs. future health concerns**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWndBXzCwNCaeVbyCidalECicNHPTv?format=standard)

A recent lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and other advocacy groups seeks to ban the use of antibiotics to promote animal growth and once again brought up the question of how to balance the world's need for food with the possible threat of developing drug-resistant diseases. Meat and poultry trade groups and AVMA support the use of low levels of antibiotics under a veterinarian's care to promote health and growth of animals, according to this article. [Kalamazoo Gazette (Mich.)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWndBXzCwNCaeVbyCidalECicNHPTv?format=standard) (6/12)

[**N.H. veterinarians urge pet protections against tick-borne diseases**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwvCidalECicNbMUr?format=standard)

Veterinarians in New Hampshire are advising residents to protect themselves and their pets from exposure to ticks, whose numbers are especially high this year due to extreme weather. "Lyme Disease is the tick-borne disease that we see most prevalently in the area. We are also seeing anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis, which are two other tick-borne diseases that we're seeing with increased frequency now as well," one area veterinarian said. [WPTZ-TV (Burlington, Vt.)](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwvCidalECicNbMUr?format=standard) (6/13)

[**Suburban development brings greater rabies risk**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwwCidalECicNdRCs?format=standard)

Vaccines have all but eliminated the risk of rabies for America's dogs, but increased suburban development that brings people closer to wildlife means the threat of the disease still looms. Raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks are the main carriers of the saliva-borne disease, which is transmitted through bites and kills animals and people fairly soon after reaching the brain. [Discovery](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwwCidalECicNdRCs?format=standard) (6/13)

[**Post-Katrina, pets figure into coastal hurricane planning**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwCCidalECicNTIxi?format=standard)

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina six years ago brought to light a lack of planning for pets in the event of a natural disaster, an oversight Congress addressed in 2006 with a new law requiring state and local governments to include people with pets and service dogs in their emergency planning. "Prior to the PETS act, it wasn't as understood, perhaps, that approximately 60% of the U.S. population has pets and we have to prepare for people to evacuate with their pets," said AVMA emergency response coordinator Heather Case. [New England Cable News (Boston)/The Associated Press](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cWqbBXzCwNCafHwCCidalECicNTIxi?format=standard) (6/13)