**One Health News Bits**

**March 14, 2011**

[**Veterinarian says rescue dogs arriving in Maine could carry diseases**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOqSBXzCwNBYrUwHCicOlzCicNJGkL?format=standard)

Maine state veterinarian Donald Hoenig has expressed concern that the thousands of rescue dogs arriving in the state annually could be carrying infectious diseases. Southern dogs started arriving in Maine and other Northeastern states in droves in 2005 as a result of displacement by Hurricane Katrina, Hoenig said. Hoenig is thinking about requiring all rescue groups bringing in dogs to use only transporters licensed by the Department of Agriculture to ensure proper monitoring of the dogs.

[**West Nile virus found in Culiseta inornata mosquito for the first time**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOtZBXzCwNBYsjuGCicOlzCicNEEqr?format=standard)

A parish in Louisiana has found the West Nile virus in the Culiseta inornata mosquito, a species that usually is active during winter and early spring. This is the first time that the virus has been found in this particular mosquito species. "While this indicates the [infection] cycle could be continuing during the winter, we aren't sure what effect this could have in late spring, early summer," said Charles Palmisano, director of the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District.

[**White-nose syndrome confirmed in second N.C. county**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOtZBXzCwNBYsjuHCicOlzCicNKSwg?format=standard)

Officials with the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission have confirmed the presence of white-nose syndrome in the state's Yancey County. The fungal disease, which proves fatal to bats, also was detected in Avery County, N.C., last month.

[**Virginia takes steps to ward off foreign animal diseases**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOtZBXzCwNBYsjuRCicOlzCicNHtnT?format=standard)

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is urging travelers to be vigilant to avoid bringing dangerous pathogens back to their home state. Travelers, especially those with destinations in Africa, South America or Asia, are advised to check the animal disease status of the country they plan to visit and to declare all contact with foreign animals upon their return, officials say.

[**Self-awareness varies in the animal kingdom**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOxqBXzCwNBYsBpOCicOlzCicNbrfl?format=standard)

Human babies and several other species including elephants, great apes and even dolphins learn to recognize themselves in a mirror, a sign of self-awareness. Dogs consistently fail the mirror test, a fact one Colorado scientist attributes less to an inferior brain and more to the fact that canines tell each other apart through smell much more than sight. NPR's Robert Krulwich explains his unscientific experiment, and concludes that more organized studies are needed.

[**Benefits of human-animal bond outweigh potential health risks, says AVMA president**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOxqBXzCwNBYsBpZCicOlzCicNipJn?format=standard)

A study citing the potential risks of parasite transmission from pets to humans has raised questions about whether it is safe to snuggle with pets. Speaking at a conference, AVMA President Dr. Larry Kornegay noted that most such parasites are preventable, and he added: "The human/animal bond has more benefits than potential risks, which are minimized with regular veterinary exams.

[**Scrapie transmitted through aerosols**](http://www.avma.org/beta/onlnews/javma/mar11/110315i.asp)

Mice became infected with scrapie when exposed to aerosols containing scrapie-infected tissue, according to recent research results. An article published Jan. 13 in the journal PLoS Pathogens indicates researchers were able to infect mice with scrapie through an aerosol containing brain tissue. They also showed that as the time mice were exposed to infected tissue was increased, the incubation period for the disease decreased.

[**BSE detected in Canadian cow**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOzTBXzCwNBYsRazCicOlzCicNDHmx?format=standard)

A dairy cow in Alberta, Canada, has tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, according to the country's Food Inspection Agency. An agency spokeswoman said none of the animal's carcass made it into human foods or animal feed. The infected cow reportedly marks the 18th case of the disease in Canada.

[**New bird-flu outbreak discovered at S. Korean poultry farm**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cOzTBXzCwNBYsRaBCicOlzCicNJlbl?format=standard)

Another outbreak of H5N1 bird flu affecting 12,400 birds has been detected in Cheonan, South Korea, and officials are preparing to cull all ducks on the infected farm to prevent further disease spread. It's the 49th confirmed outbreak of bird flu in the country since suspected cases were first documented Dec. 29, officials say.

[**Veterinarians pioneer less-invasive test for colon cancer**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPgYBXzCwNBYuhndCicOlzCicNkfqH?format=standard)

Veterinarians and a team of colon cancer researchers who set out in 2008 to test cancer treatments on mice made a discovery that will likely soon lead to a colon-cancer test that's less invasive than colonoscopy. The researchers discovered a marker in mouse feces that can be used to predict the types of colon cancer that are related to other bowel diseases, and the next step is to assemble a human trial.

[**U.S. House bill would limit antibiotic use in animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPgYBXzCwNBYuhnVCicOlzCicNVTZi?format=standard)

U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., has revived a bill that would restrict the use of animal antibiotics in livestock. The bill "would in no way infringe upon the use of these drugs to treat a sick animal. It simply proscribes their non-therapeutic use," Slaughter said. See AVMA's list of [additional resources](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPgYBXzCwNBYuhnUCicOlzCicNSuSv)on antimicrobial use and resistance.

[**Kentucky ferrets contract H1N1; Vietnam sees H5N1 flu outbreaks**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPgYBXzCwNBYuhnYCicOlzCicNoKtB?format=standard)

Ferrets at a Kentucky veterinary hospital recently were found with the 2009 H1N1 flu virus after a worker there became sick with flu-like symptoms, according to this article, which cites AVMA. Separately, two recent cases of H5N1 bird flu that led to the deaths of at least 1,000 birds have been reported in Vietnam.

[**Experts: Humans are contributing to a rise in Lyme disease risk**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPjFBXzCwNBYuuheCicOlzCicNDFUl?format=standard)

The recent rise in the incidence of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses in the U.S. may be attributed to modifications being made by people to the environment and overdevelopment of dwellings in wooded areas, experts say. However, one expert notes that better diagnostic testing also may be allowing for more such cases to be identified.

[**Iowa raw-milk bill sparks vocal debate**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPjFBXzCwNBYuuhvCicOlzCicNflLe?format=standard)

More than 50 supporters of a bill that would allow Iowa farmers to sell raw milk to consumers who come to their farms crowded a committee room in Des Moines to voice their belief that the benefits outweigh the risks. Meanwhile, opponents have been just as aggressive in voicing concerns about the dangers of consuming unpasteurized milk. "If there is an outbreak of illness due to raw milk, we're afraid people won't differentiate between raw and pasteurized milk and it would hurt the whole industry," said Jessica Bloomberg of the Iowa State Dairy Association.