**One Health News Bits**

**March 23, 2011**

[**U.S. senator: Veterinarians play crucial role in human and animal health**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPpqBXzCwNBYvauPCicOlzCicNyLSW?format=standard)

Veterinarians serve as the first line of defense against animal-disease outbreaks and help ensure the safety of the nation's food supply, but only a handful of food-animal practitioners are available to care for farm animals in many areas across the country, writes U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo in this opinion piece. The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program aims to help address the issue by encouraging veterinarians to work in underserved areas, Crapo writes.

[**Diseased dogs in remote areas threaten wolf populations and human health**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPpqBXzCwNBYvauSCicOlzCicNJjql?format=standard)

Dogs that run free in remote areas of British Columbia that are without proper veterinary care are transmitting deadly diseases to wolf populations in the area, a new study found. "Some of the diseases we detected, notably parvovirus and distemper, can be lethal and have been linked with population declines in wildlife," said researcher Paul Paquet. The canines are also carriers of several bacterial strains and parasites that can infect the humans they come in contact with, researchers found.

[**Georgia district sees record number of reported animal-rabies cases in 10 years**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPpqBXzCwNBYvauTCicOlzCicNPxwa?format=standard)

2010 reported animal rabies cases in the 10-county Northwest Georgia Public Health district were highest in 10 years. Rabies remains a potentially deadly public health problem in northwest Georgia.

[**Experts explore effects of human-animal bonds on families**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPsqBXzCwNBYvphvCicOlzCicNUswJ?format=standard)

Scientists long ago established that the bond between some people and their pets are just as strong as human-to-human relationships. Now, researchers are finding that human-animal bonds affect families differently -- pets create tension in some families and bring comfort to others, with the difference having more to do with people's behavior as opposed to the pets'.

[**Animal sounds could be used to measure ecosystem health, experts say**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPsqBXzCwNBYvphxCicOlzCicNZWlx?format=standard)

There's nothing new about studying [animal sounds](http://www.npr.org/series/93588962/wild-sounds); biologists have been doing that for centuries. After all, if you want to understand birds, you need to understand how they communicate. But Bryan Pijanowski is now asking his colleagues to take a huge step back and, metaphorically speaking, listen not just to the trees, but to the forest. "We're trying to understand how sounds can be used as measures of ecosystem health," says Pijanowski, who teaches in the department of forestry and natural resources at Purdue University.

**Video: Zoonosis and our pets**

A recent study warned of potential diseases that pets may transmit to their owners. In the latest AVMATV video, Dr. Christine Hoang, assistant director of the AVMA Scientific Activities Division, explains that responsible pet owners need not worry. Zoonotic diseases in pets are rare, and preventing them takes just a few simple steps.

[**Food / Agriculture Organization Head Highlights Food Security Concerns, Need For More Agriculture Investment**](http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2011/March/16/GH-031611-Food-Security.aspx)

Rising oil prices and the recent drawdown in global cereal stocks could lead to a supply crisis and raise the risk of food riots in developing countries similar to those that occurred between 2007 and 2008, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director General Jacques Diouf said in an interview with [Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/14/us-food-global-fao-idUSTRE72D3SP20110314) on Monday.

[**Adult Stem Cells May Offer New Approaches for Asthma/Chronic Kidney Disease Treatments**](http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/ns/_news/homepage_cvmbs/news_201012_kidney_disease.aspx)

Stem cell therapy, according to researchers at the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, may soon offer the promise of a treatment for asthma. Veterinarian Steven Dow and his colleagues are using the mouse as a model for asthma in humans. So far, the results are promising, showing that stem cells derived from fat and injected into mice are [dramatically reducing inflammation](http://www.avmanet.org/t/25559/1423147/16907/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdm1icy5jb2xvc3RhdGUuZWR1L25zL19uZXdzL2hvbWVwYWdlX2N2bWJzL25ld3NfMjAxMDEyX2tpZG5leV9kaXNlYXNlLmFzcHg%3d&x=903f9d51) associated with the condition. As their studies continue, the researchers hope their efforts will one day help prevent the disease and save lives. For more

information, contact Dell Rae Moellenberg 970-491-6009 or dellrae.moellenberg@colostate.edu.

[**A peek into preeclampsia**](http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/news/2011-02-10-CCMTR-Research-Finds-Gene-That-RegulatesImmune-System-Linked-to-Preeclampsia.html)

The discovery that the placentas of women who suffer preeclampsia during pregnancy have too much of a gene associated with the regulation of the body’s immune system may lead to improved screening and prenatal care for pregnant women and their babies. The [finding](http://www.avmanet.org/t/25559/1423147/16909/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jdm0ubmNzdS5lZHUvbmV3cy8yMDExLTAyLTEwLUNDTVRSLVJlc2VhcmNoLUZpbmRzLUdlbmUtVGhhdC1SZWd1bGF0ZXNJbW11bmUtU3lzdGVtLUxpbmtlZC10by1QcmVlY2xhbXBzaWEuaHRtbA%3d%3d&x=debfff24) by researchers at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine comes after they examined the genetic makeup of placentas from women with preeclampsia and compared them to those from normal pregnancies. What they found was that higher gene levels in the preeclampsic placentas disrupted the immune system, leading to the development of preeclampsia and the complications that come with it. Researchers hope that the findings will lead to better prevention and improved treatment of the condition. For more information, contact Dave Green at 919-513-6662 or david\_green@ncsu.edu.

[**Rise in rabid-animal cases in central Alabama sparks concern**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPzaBXzCwNBYwrxvCicOlzCicNMZjn?format=standard)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Two raccoons have tested positive for rabies in Autauga and Elmore counties, raising new concerns about the disease in central Alabama. Only about 4 percent of the animals that are tested for rabies each year in Alabama come back positive for the illness. While the rabid animals in Autauga and Elmore are considered an isolated incident, officials worry that the disease is spreading rapidly in a new area.

[**Llama antibodies may aid in fighting common infection**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cPBjBXzCwNBYwJlRCicOlzCicNLEML?format=standard)

Antibodies found only in llamas may hold an important key to fighting off an infection commonly found among hospital and nursing home patients who are taking antibiotics, according to research from the University of Calgary and the National Research Council. The infection, Clostridium difficile, causes severe diarrhea and occurs when antibiotics kill beneficial bacteria that ordinarily keep the nastier bacteria in the intestines in check.

[**South Dakota epidemiologist warns of hantavirus risk**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/cQcjBXzCwNBYwWolCicOlzCicNHfXc?format=standard)

South Dakota's health agency is urging residents to take spring cleanup precautions to avoid contracting hantavirus, which is primarily carried by deer mice. "Because deer mice are found all over the state and are active all year, the risk for the virus is statewide and year round. ... That's why routine rodent control around the home is so important," the state's epidemiologist said