**One Health News Bits**

**March 2, 2011**

[**Veterinarian urges rabies vaccinations for Va. livestock animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AClAdjhChsdnwizsfDaefcfCTJBK?format=standard)

Due to recent cases of rabies in wildlife and domestic animals in southwest Virginia, Dr. Richard Wilkes is recommending that livestock owners consider discussing rabies vaccination.

[**Airborne prions might spread BSE, study finds**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AFlAdjhChsdofIrAfDaefcfClzSd?format=standard)

Mad cow disease can be spread by airborne particles, researchers warn.And they fear that those who work in abattoirs, slaughterhouses and laboratories could be at risk.Their study shows prions, the infectious agents which cause BSE and its human form, variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, can be dangerous if carried through the air.

[**Researchers find similarities between bat and frog plagues**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AGlodjhChsdoiQiMfDaefcfCBnFf?format=standard)

U.S. researchers have found that the fungus known as white-nose syndrome that has killed at least one million bats shares similar traits with the chytrid fungus that has decimated frog populations. Both diseases attack the skin, which is used by both species for important functions beyond just a covering. The fungal infections represent

changes in how diseases affect wildlife, the researchers said.

[**Experts: People contribute to bird deaths**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AHlMdjhChsdolVqQfDaefcfCQist?format=standard)

The federal government estimates that about 97 million to 976 million birds die each year from crashing into building windows and another 60 million or so from car accidents. The primary cause of bird casualties, however, is dwindling habitats tied to development, experts say. There is a need to address the issue and "deal with human-induced changes to our habitats, our landscape and our very climate," one expert said.

[**Stem cell therapies offer hope for injured performance animals**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AIngdjhChsdopebQfDaefcfCRhbz?format=standard)

Horses and other performance animals often are at risk for ligament, tendon, cartilage and joint injuries, which can be career-enders for some. Advances in veterinary medicine such as stem cell treatments, however, are helping to give these animals a

second chance.

[**Wild deer mouse contracts hantavirus in California**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AKoAdjhChsdowNsIfDaefcfCUlkU?format=standard)

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health reported that a wild deer mouse in Alpine, Calif., has tested positive for hantavirus, a potentially fatal disease that can jump to humans. The agency's director warned that the disease "can become dangerous if infected rodents get indoors and people come into contact with their droppings." 

[**Study highlights risk of animal bites**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/ALnsdjhChsdozZpUfDaefcfCoaUP?format=standard)

A study appearing in the Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal describes the case of a zoologist who suffered a skin infection after being bitten by a kinkajou, which resembles a raccoon. Test results identified the infection to be a case of blastomycosis, a rare disease carried by the Blastomyces dermatitidis fungus that often develops into pneumonia. The study calls for extra precaution when working with animals to prevent the risk of bites.

[**Regenerative-medicine center for animals and people unveiled**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AOmwdjhChsdpbvrAfDaefcfCHPYL?format=standard)

The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in North Carolina has partnered with the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine to create a center for developing regenerative treatments for humans and animals. The Virginia Tech/Wake Forest Center for Veterinary Regenerative Medicine aims to advance its findings into new therapies that benefit both human and animal patients.

[**Researchers find tularemia in Texas feral hogs**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AOmwdjhChsdpbvrYfDaefcfCSXNb?format=standard)

U.S. researchers have reported that a number of feral hogs in Lubbock, Texas, tested positive for tularemia, a potentially harmful disease that can spread to humans through a wound or by breathing infected air. The researchers are urging ranchers and hunters to take precautions when handling wild game to minimize the risk of infection.

[**Trichomoniasis detected in S.D. cattle herd**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AOmwdjhChsdpbvtQfDaefcfCLpyI?format=standard)

A Gregory County cattle herd has been infected with a venereal disease that causes abortions, prompting the South Dakota animal industry board to advise cattlemen in that area to have their herds checked. State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven said it was

the sixth confirmed case of bovine trichomoniasis since July.

[**Researchers use biological cartilage for knee replacement in dogs**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/APrAdjhChsdpfbeQfDaefcfCJetC?format=standard)

James Cook, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Missouri, and his team have successfully performed a knee replacement procedure in dogs using biological cartilage. The cartilage was developed from the patient's own cells, which were grown in the lab and formed for insertion into the knee. "If we continue to prove the safety and efficacy of this biologic joint replacement strategy, then we can get FDA approval for use of this technology for joint replacements in people," Cook said. The

team's research was recently published in the journal The Lancet.

[**Is snuggling with your pet bad for your health?**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/APrAdjhChsdpfbjkfDaefcfCcqun?format=standard)

Sleeping with pets could put people, especially the elderly, children and those with weak immune systems, at risk for contracting disease, per a study appearing in the Emerging Infectious Diseases journal. Although the risk is remote, taking common-sense measures such as ensuring routine pet wellness care and washing one's hands is

appropriate, AVMA President Larry Kornegay said

[**Study suggests some Listeria strains can invade heart cells**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AQoodjhChsdpiveQfDaefcfCMaix?format=standard)

U.S. researchers say some strains of Listeria monocytogenes, which can trigger mild food poisoning in healthy persons, have the ability to infect the heart, possibly via certain proteins that thrive on the surface of the bacteria. Mice were used as the study subjects, meaning additional research is needed to gauge whether the results would hold true for people.

[**Japanese health officials report fifth bird flu outbreak**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AQoodjhChsdpivgkfDaefcfCYnVI?format=standard)

TOKYO — Japanese health authorities on Thursday said a fifth outbreak of bird flu since November had hit a poultry farm in the central region of Aichi, as local officials began a cull of 150,000 chickens there.