**One Health News Bits**

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[**Pets are often victims in family abuse cases**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/AQoodjhChsdpivhsfDaefcfCDGLz?format=standard)

Cats and dogs are increasingly becoming the smallest victims of domestic abusers, who often seriously injure or kill beloved pets as part of a strategy to show control over their victims, experts say. Battered Women's Shelters in San Antonio now allow women fleeing abuse situations to bring their pets. "We are assessing the need not just for humans who are here but pets to make sure they are well taken care of when they are here," said spokeswoman Laura Fronzaglio

[**Researchers test Ebola vaccine that could aid wild apes**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BatQdjhChsdqlIawfDaefcfCNuyJ?format=standard)

U.S. scientists planned to inject six chimpanzees with a potential Ebola vaccine on Tuesday, with the goal of ultimately vaccinating wild apes against the virus that has decimated their populations. The experiment is not meant to determine whether the vaccine works, but to demonstrate its safety and ability to induce immunity against the virus, so the simian subjects won't be exposed to the actual virus as part of the experiment.

[**Concern raised over environmental risk tied to livestock cull in S. Korea**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BatQdjhChsdqlIaIfDaefcfCPzgK?format=standard)

Officials in South Korea have expressed a concern over a possible environmental threat that may arise from the hasty burial of at least 3 million livestock animals that were killed in an effort to contain a recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the country. Some burial sites could cave in amid warming temperatures and precipitation, thus threatening the groundwater, the country's environment ministry said.

[**USDA: Feral pigs wreaking havoc across various states**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BatQdjhChsdqlIcYfDaefcfCNuyJ?format=standard)

The rapidly growing population of feral pigs across Texas and several other states cause at least $8 million worth of damage each year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services. Aside from posing predatory and disease threats to livestock and pets, the species also can transmit swine brucellosis to humans, a spokeswoman for the agency said.

[**Zoo elephant diagnosed with tuberculosis**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BbykdjhChsdqqJbsfDaefcfCZBtb?format=standard)

Officials at Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M., have diagnosed an elephant with tuberculosis, a bacteria that can prove fatal if it's not treated early enough. The zoo says the case was diagnosed in time, but predict a long and costly treatment period for the 37-year-old pachyderm. Humans are in no danger of contracting the disease from the animal.

[**Dog-walking owners could cover 23,000 miles during a pet's lifetime**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BdvkdjhChsdqAIiAfDaefcfCfsTs?format=standard)

An average British canine owner walks his or her dog for about eight hours a week, covering 36 miles per week or 1,855 miles per year -- that could mean covering 23,739 miles during a pet's average lifetime of 12.8 years, a study finds. Of the 3,000 owners participating in the study, 50% said they fail to walk their pets every day because of busy lifestyles.

[**Wisconsin cat contracts H1N1 flu virus**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BevwdjhChsdrcWocfDaefcfCtMwc?format=standard)

A cat in Wisconsin tested positive for the H1N1 flu virus Monday, according to an industry alert issued by IDEXX Reference Laboratories, which said the case is the first confirmation of the virus in a house-cat reported this year. Some members of the family who owned the cat reportedly had been sick with flu-like symptoms. Owners exhibiting flu signs are advised to avoid contact with pets, per this article.

[**Obama's budget proposal includes funding for animal lab**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BevwdjhChsdrcWpkfDaefcfCLikz?format=standard)

The president's budget proposal presented to Congress includes $150 million in funding to help build a national animal-research laboratory in Kansas. The National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility, which is to replace the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York, would allow for researchers to study harmful diseases transmitted

among animals.

[**Australian researchers to study diseases carried by bats**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BevwdjhChsdrcWpIfDaefcfCbUfn?format=standard)

Australian researchers are preparing to investigate how bats transmit certain illnesses to humans and other animals, as well as what makes them frequently immune to the viruses they carry. The research could aid in the development of surveillance strategies that may allow for better management of global zoonotic diseases, the study's lead researcher said.

[**Dogs in Turkey are being trained to sniff out cancer**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BevwdjhChsdrcWpUfDaefcfCmskm?format=standard)

The idea that dogs are “man’s best friend” is taking on new meaning in Turkey, where specially trained canines are being taught how to save lives – by sniffing out cancer. Four dogs – Mambo, Yulia, Zuzu and Magie – between the ages of one and two years old are the first in Turkey to receive, along with basic obedience training, exposure to different odors to hone their senses of smell in order to detect cancerous cells.

[**Studies and stories illustrate how dogs help autistic children connect**](http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/BevwdjhChsdrcWrofDaefcfCEjVz?format=standard)

Several studies in recent years have documented that dogs can often help autistic children connect with other beings, learn about feelings and needs and reduce their own stress. But Janice Wolfe doesn't need to see the numbers -- she sees the data in action when autistic children meet her Rhodesian ridgeback, Wyatt. Wyatt is a service dog that Wolfe introduces to the children to get a sense of how they'll interact with a dog, before she chooses one for them from a shelter and spends her time and money to train it.