KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH

ZOONEWS FOR KITSAP VETS

A seasonal report on zoonotic disease trends and news of interest Fall 2012

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE from Beth Lipton, DVM MPH

When we surveyed Kitsap County health care providers, including veterinarians, in the fall of 2011 we asked "what public health information would be most useful to you?" The tables, text and links in this newsletter reflect your priorities: updates on current diseases, emerging diseases, and environmental health concerns.

NOTIFIABLE NEWS

As Table 1 indicates, case counts of many zoonotic diseases are very low in Kitsap County. No cases of either West Nile Virus (WNV) or *Cryptococcus gattii* have been reported in humans or animals living in Kitsap. In Washington, human and animal cases of WNV were detected in high numbers in 2009 but were low in 2010 and 2011. Four human cases of WNV have recently been reported. So far in 2012, 48 states have reported human or animal WNV cases. A total of 3,142 human cases, including 134 deaths, have been reported to CDC. This is the highest number of cases year-to-date since 2003. For more information go to: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm

Table 1. Selected Notifiable Conditions (# of cases)

	Kitsap County		Washington State	
	3-year average 09-11	Jan-Jun 2012	3-year average 09-11	Jan-Jun 2012
Human Cases:				
Brucellosis	0	0	1	0
Cryptococcus gattii	0	0	4	2
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome	0	0	2	1
Leptospirosis	0	0	0.3	0
Lyme disease	1.3	0	17	7
Plague	0	0	0	0
Psittacosis	0	0	0	0
Q Fever	0	0	4	3
Tularemia	0	0	4	1
Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)*	5	17	188	248
West Nile Virus	0	0	26	0
Animal Surveillance:				
Positive rabies (only bats tested)	0.3	0	13	1
Cryptococcus gattii	0	0	9	5
West Nile Virus: mammals	0	0	24	0
West Nile Virus: birds	0	0	8	0
West Nile Virus: mosquitoes	0	0	95	1

*Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for rabies prevention has increased dramatically since it is now reported as part of "suspected rabies exposure", although in some cases PEP may have been recommended by the Health District/health care provider but not accepted by the patient.

Rabies Vaccination: Beginning January 2012 all dogs, cats and ferrets in Washington must have up-to-date rabies vaccines, according to the new state rule, WAC 246-100-197. The rule states that owners are required to have their animals vaccinated and revaccinated against rabies following veterinary and vaccine manufacturer instructions. No enforcement exists at the state level; it is up to cities or counties to provide enforcement. For requirements in specific jurisdictions go to www.kitsapgov.com/petlicensing/. The intent of the law is to educate pet owners about the importance of rabies prevention to protect their pets, themselves and their families. Recent animal cases in Washington include a cat that developed rabies after catching a rabid bat (2002) and a rabid puppy imported from Iraq that passed through Washington (2007). Two cases of human rabies have been identified in the past 20 years.

Animal Bites: Under the 2011 revisions to the notifiable conditions rules, reporting all animal bites is no longer required. However, if human exposure to rabies is suspected, veterinarians are required to immediately report animal bites or other exposures (e.g. scratches with salivary contaminants) to local public health. Additionally, veterinarians must immediately report any suspected cases of animal rabies to both local public health (including bat rabies) and to the Department of Agriculture (excluding bat rabies). A good resource for rabies prevention and control is the Rabies Compendium at www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4300/ZD-RabiesCompendium2008.pdf. If you have questions about a situation involving a potential rabies case or exposure, please call us!

REPORT NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS TO KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH 24/7

During business hours call 360-337-5235. After hours call 1-360-415-2005 or 911.

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DOG FOOD, YOUR SAFETY, AND THE FLU

Dry Dog Food and Salmonella Outbreak: In July the CDC released its final report on a multistate outbreak of human *Salmonella* Infantis linked to dry dog food. A total of 49 cases in 20 states were reported with 10 hospitalizations and no deaths. Washington has not reported any cases but California has had three. Dry dog food produced by Diamond Pet Foods at a manufacturing plant in South Carolina is linked with human cases. A recall of several dog and cat foods occurred during April and May. Pets may get *Salmonella* infections from eating contaminated pet foods. Clinical signs include diarrhea, fever, vomiting, decreased appetite, or abdominal pain; however, some animals may be asymptomatic and become carriers. People may get infected from handling contaminated pet products or having contact with infected pets or their feces. For more information about this outbreak, including which foods have been recalled and how to report a suspected animal case go to www.cdc.gov/salmonella/dog-food-05-12/vet-info.html

Veterinary Safety and Health: Go to www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/veterinary to view the new website by The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), an Institute of the CDC.

Influenza A (H3N2) Variant Virus Outbreaks: Since July 2012, over 300 people from 10 states are reported to have been infected with an influenza A H3N2 variant virus (H3N2v). This virus contains a specific gene from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic virus (known as 'swine flu'). Sixteen H3N2v-associated hospitalizations and one H3N2v-associated death have occurred. Washington has not reported any cases. Investigations into H3N2v cases indicate that the main risk factor for infection is exposure to pigs, mostly in fair settings. Found in U.S. pigs in 2010 and humans in July 2011, this virus appears to spread more easily from pigs to people than other variant viruses. Most cases to date have occurred in children who have little immunity against this virus. Though limited person-to-person spread has occurred, H3N2v is not spreading readily from person-to-person at this time. People at high risk of serious complications from influenza, such as children younger than five, people with certain chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or weakened immune systems, pregnant women, and people 65 years and older are urged to avoid pigs and pig barns/arenas at fairs this season. The CDC is updating the situation regularly at www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-outbreak.htm

THE ENVIRONMENT

The information in Table 2. is a good reminder of how we are impacted by environmental health. While air quality and drinking water are usually quite good, only 33% of our freshwater streams meet standards. This is why many of our streams currently have posted health warnings. Rates of illness related to unsafe food, water or hygiene are up—primarily campylobacter, giardia, and salmonella.

Table 2. Selected Kitsap County Environmental Conditions

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
% Days per year with air quality above standard	98%	99%	95%	98%	
% Group A/B drinking water systems meeting standard for levels of total coliform bacteria	98%	98%	99%	98%	93%
% Fresh water streams meeting standard for levels of total coliform bacteria	40%	42%	27%	42%	33%
% Shoreline miles open for shellfish harvesting	81%	83%	84%	84%	84%
Rate of illness related to unsafe food, water, hygiene (per 100,000 residents)	25	28	29	32	36

Kitsap Lakes and Cyanobacteria: This summer and last fall toxic cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, have been found in toxic levels in local lakes, including Kitsap and Long Lakes. Toxic cyanobacteria can produce several types of toxins, including neurotoxins and hepatotoxins. During toxic blooms animals and people should avoid direct contact with the water as exposure occurs through ingestion or inhalation of water droplets. The first signs of poisoning in animals usually occur within 30 minutes of exposure and include vomiting and diarrhea. Neurological signs typically occur minutes to hours following exposure and may include: tremors, salivation, seizures, weakness and respiratory paralysis. If hepatotoxins are involved, anorexia, lethargy and depression occur. Jaundice, abdominal swelling, and tenderness in the abdominal area may also be observed. Blood values of liver enzymes are typically very high. The prognosis is poor in animals that develop severe liver failure. No known antidotes to the hepatotoxins or neurotoxins are currently known. Consider toxic cyanobacteria as a differential diagnosis in cases of sudden or recent onset liver or neurologic disease and ask about exposure to lakes. If you suspect animal exposure to cyanobacteria based on symptoms and history, please call us! You can also go to our website for local updates; www.kitsappublichealth.org/environment/water_advisories.php. For more information and treatment recommendations go to www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/BlueGreenAlgae.aspx

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