

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

Table 1. New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Jurisdiction affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment

For questions regarding specific disease events, please contact the lead agency noted. This contact information is for use by Maryland veterinarians and health professionals:

MDA - Maryland Department of Agriculture: ahops.mda@maryland.gov, 410-841-5810

DHMH - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: dhmh.czvbd@maryland.gov, 410-767-5649

DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, 877-463-6497 or 800-628-9944

Animal Care Centers of New York City Report Cases of Rare Influenza Virus Among Cats

We have recently learned of this situation in New York City (NYC), and at this time are not aware of any implications for Maryland cats, other animals or human residents. We are asking veterinarians and other animal health professionals to be aware of avian influenza H7N2 as a possibility for mild illness in cats, especially if they have recently been in New York City.

H7N2 strain has caused mild illness in cats in Manhattan shelter and is thought to pose a low risk to humans. The New York City Health Department is contacting persons who recently adopted Manhattan shelter cats.

December 15, 2016 —The NYC Health Department and the Animal Care Centers of NYC (ACC) today [December 15, 2016] announced that a strain of influenza A virus, known as low pathogenic avian influenza H7N2, has been identified in 45 cats housed at the Manhattan shelter. This is the first time this virus has been detected and transmitted among domestic cats. It is unknown how the cats contracted the virus. So far this virus causes mild illness in cats and is thought to pose a low risk to humans. There have been only two documented human cases of low pathogenic avian influenza H7N2 infection in the United States – one in a farmer who worked closely with chickens in 2002 and the other with an unknown source in 2003. Both of these patients recovered.

Based on recent testing data by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, November 12, 2016 is the earliest date when this virus was likely introduced into the shelter. The NYC Health Department is

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
Domestic animals	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/Diseases.aspx
Wild animals	MD DNR / USDA Wildlife Service Call Center 1-877-463-6497 http://www.wher.org
Humans	DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/Home.aspx

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contacting all persons who have adopted cats from ACC's Manhattan care center since November 12th. The NYC Health Department is advising persons who adopted Manhattan shelter cats during this period to call the NYC Health Department at 866-692-3641 for care instructions, including keeping their cat separated from other cats or animals, if their cat is showing signs of persistent cough, lip smacking, runny nose, and fever. The NYC Health Department is also advising these pet owners to call 866-692-3641 if they develop fever with a sore throat, fever with a cough, or red, inflamed eyes.

This influenza virus is spreading from cat to cat and may be able to spread to other animals and possibly humans. No human infections have been identified to date. To date, ACC has tested 20 dogs at the shelter, and none have contracted this virus. Testing of other animals, including rabbits and guinea pigs, is ongoing. There have been no reported cases of this virus among cats outside of the ACC shelter system.

ACC will continue to distribute instructions to all new and recent cat adopters to monitor their cats, which includes guidance on checking animals for upper respiratory illness. The NYC Health Department is coordinating closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the US Department of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and community partners.

"Although this strain of the avian flu has only resulted in mild to moderate illness in some cats located in one shelter, we have begun to test staff and people in close contact with the cats out of an abundance of caution," said **First Deputy Health Commissioner Dr. Oxiris Barbot**. "We will continue to actively monitor all people involved and adapt our response accordingly."

"While we are concerned about his new infection, the cats are experiencing only mild to moderate illness, other than one older cat who developed pneumonia," said **Sandra Newbury, clinical assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the UW Shelter Medicine Program**. "Many of the cats who were initially ill are already recovering. We do want people to be aware of what is happening, but influenza infection is unlikely in cats who have not had contact with cats from New York City's Manhattan Animal Care Center."

Most of the infected cats have had a mild illness. One infected cat, who had underlying health problems and advanced age, died. The NYC Health Department and ACC are working to identify a quarantine facility while the Manhattan shelter is disinfected. The cats will be monitored and released from quarantine once they have all fully recovered. To help contain the outbreak, the NYC Health Department strongly discourages New Yorkers from dropping off cats at the ACC Manhattan shelter until all cats are quarantined.

While this influenza infection is unlikely in cats who have not had contact with cats from the ACC shelter, owners whose animals show signs of influenza should contact their veterinarian for care instructions and hand washing precautions should be taken to prevent spread of the virus on hands and clothing.

The NYC Health Department will be coordinating testing and care for ACC employees and volunteers.

The NYC Health Department will be releasing guidance to New York veterinarians about how to evaluate cats suspected of being infected with this virus and guidance to physicians about how to evaluate humans who have been exposed to cats suspected of having this virus.

The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory made the initial identification of the strain and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the test results.

Kathy Toohey-Kurth, at The Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, working with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Shelter Medicine Program, made the initial identification of the strain and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory confirmed the test results. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Shelter Medicine Program continues to work with ACC Manhattan shelter to manage the illness.

MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2016

Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending December 10, 2016

Jurisdiction	Bat Total (New)	Cat Total (New)	Cow Total (New)	Dog Total (New)	Fox Total (New)	Groundhog Total (New)	Raccoon Total (New)	Skunk Total (New)	Other Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany	1	2			1		2	1		7
Anne Arundel	10	2					3			15
Baltimore	10	3	1		2	1	18			35
Baltimore City	27	1			1	1	21			51
Calvert						1	2			3
Caroline							7	2		9
Carroll	1	2			1		4	1		9
Cecil	1				2		1	2		6
Charles	1				2		1	3		7
Dorchester							7	2		9
Frederick	17	2			1		10	3		33
Garrett							3	1		4
Harford	5	2			2		11			20
Howard	3						2			5
Kent	1	1					2	1		5
Montgomery	15	1			2		9	1	1	29
Prince George's	11	2					12(1)			15(1)
Queen Anne's	1						7	1		9
Saint Mary's		1				1	7(1)	5		14(1)
Somerset		1					3			4
Talbot							6	2		8
Washington		4			1		4			9
Wicomico					2		6			8
Worcester		1				1	11	1		14
Total (New)	104	25	1		17	5	149(2)	26	1	328(2)

Other (1): Beaver (1)

For complete animal rabies data:

<http://phpa.dhmdh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/Home.aspx>

To view previous issues of the Maryland One Health Bulletin (MOHB):

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/md-one-health.aspx>

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Bulletin:

<http://preparedness.dhmdh.maryland.gov/Pages/PHPSA.aspx>

National Wildlife Health Center New and Ongoing Wildlife Mortality Events Nationwide:

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events?ongoing.jsp

U.S. Livestock and Poultry Disease Events and Trends:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/help?1dmy&uril=wcm%3apath%3a%2FAPHIS_Content_Library%2FSA_Our_Focus%2FSA_Animal_Health

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Influenza Report:

<http://phpa.dhmdh.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/home.aspx>