

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

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

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Counties affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment
April 2012	April 2012			Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	1	MDA	See below
April 2012	April 2012	Baltimore Metro Area	Human	Tularemia	1	DHMH	See page 2

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.state.md.us, 410-841-5810
- DHMH - Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases: czvbd@dhmh.state.md.us, 410-767-5649
- DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program, FWHP@dnr.state.md.us, 410-226-5193

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the nation's fourth case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow from Central California. The first U.S. BSE case was detected in 2003 in Washington State, in a Holstein cow that had been imported into the U.S. from Canada in 2001. The California cow in this recent case was never presented for slaughter for human consumption, and milk does not transmit BSE, so at no time presented a risk to the food supply or human health. Dr. Clifford, USDA Chief Veterinary Officer, states "The United States has had longstanding interlocking safeguards to protect human and animal health against BSE. For public health, these measures include the USDA ban on specified risk materials, or SRMs, from the food supply. SRMs are parts of the animal that are most likely to contain the BSE agent if it is present in an animal. USDA also bans all nonambulatory (sometimes called "downer") cattle from entering the human food chain. For animal health, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ban on ruminant material in cattle feed prevents the spread of the disease in the cattle herd." The full press release can be found at: <http://usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2012/04/0132.xml>

To report cases of disease in:	Contact:
Domestic animals	MDA Animal Health Program Office 410-841-5810 www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/reportable.php
Wild animals	MD DNR / USDA Wildlife Service Call Center 1-877-463-6497 http://www.whmn.org/wher/
Humans	DHMH Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases 410-767-5649 http://www.edcp.org/html/case_reports.cfm

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New or Ongoing Morbidity or Mortality Animal or Zoonotic Disease Events in Maryland (continued).

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (continued):

BSE is a progressive neurological disease among cattle that is always fatal. It belongs to a family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). No cases of BSE have ever been detected in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with USDA, tests all ruminants in Maryland exhibiting neurologic signs for rabies and then TSEs, if negative for rabies. Samples from the brain are sent the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) for testing. Further information on BSE can be found at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/hot_issues/bse/.

Tularemia:

An elderly resident of the Baltimore metropolitan area was recently confirmed with tularemia (caused by *Francisella tularensis*) by positive blood culture. The patient was hospitalized with a febrile illness, responded to doxycycline therapy, and has been discharged home and is recovering. The patient had ample opportunity for tick exposure and presented to the healthcare system with a tick attached to his body. Sporadic cases of naturally occurring tularemia in humans and wildlife have been documented in Maryland in previous years (see MOHB vol 1, issue 19, November 23, 2011), and cases are occasionally noted in neighboring states.

DHMH wants to remind veterinarians, wildlife biologists, wildlife rehabilitators, and healthcare providers that tularemia occurs throughout Maryland, and is asking clinicians to consider a diagnosis of tularemia in patients who present with an acute febrile illness following exposure to ticks, sick or dead wildlife, or potentially contaminated aerosols generated from mowing lawns or other outdoor aerosol-generating activities. Hunters, veterinarians, wildlife biologists and wildlife rehabilitators are at increased risk of exposure to tularemia.

Tularemia in humans is immediately notifiable to the health department, and we would appreciate hearing of any suspected or confirmed cases of tularemia in wildlife or domestic animals. For a review of tularemia in animals, including a review of the various clinical presentations and treatment and prevention guidance, please see the 2003 Zoonosis Update on tularemia in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (<http://www.avma.org/avmacollections/zu/default.asp>). The 2006 USGS National Wildlife Health Center publication discusses tularemia in wildlife (<http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/publications/tularemia/>).

MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2012

Table 2. New (confirmed within the four weeks) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending April 21, 2012

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										0
Anne Arundel	1(1)				1		4(1)	1		7(2)
Baltimore							7(1)			7(1)
Baltimore City										0
Calvert	1(1)							1(1)		2(2)
Caroline							2(1)		1	3(1)
Carroll					1		4(2)			5(2)
Cecil							3	1		4
Charles	1						3(2)			4(2)
Dorchester		1								1
Frederick							10(2)		1(1)	11(3)
Garrett							2			2
Harford							7(2)			7(2)
Howard							1			1
Kent										0
Montgomery	1(1)						6(1)			7(2)
Prince George's					1			1(1)		2(1)
Queen Anne's					1(1)		4(1)	1		6(2)
Somerset		1					1			2
St. Mary's							1	1(1)		2(1)
Talbot							3(2)			3(2)
Washington		1					1			2
Wicomico							3	1		4
Worcester							7(2)			7(2)
Total (New)	4(3)	3	0	0	4(1)	0	69(17)	7(3)	2(1)	89(25)

Other: Sheep 1; Opossum 1(1)

For complete animal rabies and other human zoonotic and vector-borne disease case counts, please visit:

<http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/Home.aspx>

To review additional disease reports:

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Biosurveillance Report:

<http://preparedness.dhmh.maryland.gov/Pages/Programs/Biosurveillance>

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/animal_health

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Weekly Influenza Report:

<http://www.marylandfluwatch.org/>