

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, FWHP.DNR@maryland.gov 410-226-5193

Ebola virus disease and household pets

There is an ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are working with the affected nations in their response efforts. A dog in Spain was euthanized after its owner was diagnosed with Ebola virus, and another dog in Texas was quarantined following its owner’s diagnosis. Unanswered questions regarding the possibility of disease transmission between pets and people identified a need for guidance on the management of pets of Ebola patients.

There have been no reports of dogs or cats becoming sick with Ebola or of spreading the virus to people or animals. Findings from a recent serosurvey in Gabon indicated that Ebola virus antibodies were found in some dogs. While these findings indicate that infection with Ebola virus in dogs might be possible, virus was not isolated from these dogs. It is not known at this time whether dogs or other household pets develop active infection or shed virus in their body fluids.

When a patient is diagnosed with Ebola infection in the United States, a careful risk assessment should be conducted for any pet in close contact with the patient:

- Local public health officials should assess the pet’s risk of exposure to virus in the patient’s blood and other body fluids and should ascertain when the potential exposure occurred in relation to the patient’s course of disease (e.g. before symptom onset or early in the disease when non-specific symptoms such as fever can occur or later when symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting or hemorrhaging can occur).
- If a potential for virus exposure is identified, officials should ensure the pet is closely monitored under quarantine by a veterinarian for at least 21 days following the last potential exposure.

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/SitePages/Home.aspx

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Ebola virus disease and household pets (continued)

Guidelines have been distributed to human health and animal health officials for pets determined to be exposed to Ebola patients:

Interim Guidance for Dog or Cat Quarantine after Exposure to a Human with Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease: The intent of this interim guidance is to provide guidance for companion animals, specifically dogs and cats with exposure to a person with Ebola, based on the latest scientific evidence and recommendations from national organizations. This interim guidance describes the process for conducting a risk assessment for exposure of dogs or cats that had contact with a human with laboratory-confirmed evidence of Ebola, and it describes how to implement quarantine of dogs or cats if deemed appropriate by state and federal human and animal health officials.

Interim Guidance for Public Health Officials on Pets of Ebola Virus Disease Contacts: In addition, guidance has been developed for pets of people who are contacts of Ebola patients, with the goal of preventing the 21 day quarantine if the contact becomes a patient.

CDC Guidance and Q&A on Ebola and Pets: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/gas-pets.html>

AVMA Ebola Virus: <https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Ebola-virus.aspx?>

Maryland Arboviral Surveillance Season End

The 2014 surveillance season for West Nile virus (WNV) and other arboviruses of public health concern in Maryland concluded on October 31, 2014. The Maryland Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Health and Mental Hygiene have discontinued enhanced surveillance for human encephalitis and aseptic meningitis and surveillance for arboviral activity in mosquitoes, equines, and wildlife.

Over the course of the season, 6 (5 confirmed and 1 probable) human WNV cases have been reported in five jurisdictions: Allegany (1), Howard (1), Montgomery (1), Prince George's (2), and Washington (1) counties. All were neuroinvasive cases. Dates of illness onset ranged from August 11th to September 23rd. There were no human WNV fatalities.

The number of human WNV cases in 2014 was approximately 13% of the 47 cases reported in 2012, the highest number reported statewide since 2003. In addition to WNV, other arboviral activity was also reported in Maryland residents in 2014. Specifically, 42 human chikungunya cases, all travel-associated, were reported in Maryland, accounting for 3% of the 1,545 chikungunya cases reported nationwide.

A total of 35 mosquito pools tested positive for arboviral infection in 2014. Thirty-three pools of mosquitoes tested positive for WNV in six jurisdictions: Anne Arundel (6), Dorchester (1), Harford (4), Montgomery (5), Prince George's (16), and Talbot (1) counties, of which 13 were reported by the Department of Defense (DoD). In addition, two mosquito pools in Worcester County tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) and Cache Valley virus (CVV).

Two WNV equine case were reported in Frederick and Howard Counties. Neither horse had been vaccinated, and both are alive and recovering.

Although dead bird surveillance was discontinued at the end of the 2002 surveillance season, DHMH periodically receives reports of WNV activity in birds from other agencies including DNR, the DoD, and the Maryland Zoo. No such findings were reported in 2014.

Rabies Regulations (COMAR 10.06.02) Revisions to be Published in the Maryland Register

Revisions to the Maryland rabies regulations (Code of Maryland Regulations 10.06.02 Rabies) have been completed with the goal of aligning the regulations with current scientific guidance, as published in the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) *Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2011*. The updated regulations will be printed in the Maryland Register beginning January 9, 2015, and public comments will be accepted through February 9, 2015.

MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2014

Table 2. New (confirmed since the previous Bulletin) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending December 6, 2014

Jurisdiction	Bat	Cat	Cow	Dog	Fox	Groundhog	Raccoon	Skunk	Other	Total (New)
	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)	Total (New)
Allegany	1						3	1(1)		5(1)
Anne Arundel	15				2		15(2)	2	1	35(2)
Baltimore	6	2					13(1)	1(1)		22(2)
Baltimore City	20	1			2		5(1)			28(1)
Calvert	1				1		1	1		4
Caroline							2	1		3
Carroll	2	5(1)					7(3)	1		15(4)
Cecil							3	1	1(1)	5(1)
Charles	1				2		5(1)	3(2)		11(3)
Dorchester	1				1		5			7
Frederick	2	3			3		21(8)	4(1)		33(9)
Garrett							1			1
Harford	2(1)				3		16(5)			21(6)
Howard	1	1			1		4(1)			7(1)
Kent										
Montgomery	10(1)				1	2(1)	25(4)	1		39(6)
Prince George's	12				5	1	5(1)			23(1)
Queen Anne's	2(1)						5	1(1)		8(2)
Saint Mary's						1	3(2)	1		5(2)
Somerset						1	14(3)			15(3)
Talbot							6(2)	1(1)		7(3)
Washington	1	1			2		4			8
Wicomico	1	2(1)			2		6(3)	1(1)		12(5)
Worcester	1	2			1		18(7)	1		23(7)
Total (New)	79(3)	17(2)			26	5(1)	187(44)	21(8)	2(1)	337(59)

Other species: Deer—1, Opossum (1)

For complete animal rabies data:

<http://phpa.dhmh.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/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.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/Public%20Health%20And%20Emergency%20Preparedness%20Bulletins.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.dhmh.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/SitePages/Home.aspx0>