

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER ANIMAL DISEASES OF CONCERN IN MARYLAND

Estimated first onset	Estimated end date	Counties affected	Species affected	Diagnosis	Estimated # of cases to date	Lead agency	Comment
10/2011	Ongoing	S. Central MD	Rabbits	Tularemia	2	DNR, DHMH	See below

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

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@dnhm.state.md.us, 410-767-5649
- DNR - Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fish & Wildlife Health Program: FVHP@dnr.state.md.us, 410-226-5193

Comments

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene have become aware of increased rabbit mortality in a focal area in south central Maryland. Two rabbits found dead have been diagnosed with tularemia. **We are not aware of any cases of tularemia in people at this time.** However, DHMH wants to remind veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and healthcare providers that tularemia does occur 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 rehabilitators, and wildlife biologists are at increased risk of exposure to tularemia.

Tularemia is a relatively uncommon bacterial zoonosis caused by *Francisella tularensis*. Sporadic cases of naturally occurring tularemia in humans and wildlife have been documented in Maryland in previous years, and cases are occasionally noted in neighboring states. *F. tularensis* is maintained and amplified in nature in a cycle involving vertebrate hosts (most commonly rabbits and rodents) and arthropod vectors such as ticks. Tularemia is usually transmitted to humans by a tick bite or by touching, field dressing, or eating an undercooked infected animal, but can also be transmitted by contact with contaminated water or soil, by a bite from an infected animal or by inhalation of contaminated particles. Tularemia is not spread directly from person to person.

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/>).

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://ideha.dhnh.maryland.gov/reportable-diseases.aspx

MARYLAND ANIMAL RABIES CASES, 2011

Table 2. New (confirmed within the last two weeks) and Cumulative Rabies Cases, Week Ending November 19, 2011

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							2			2
Anne Arundel	4	1					3			8
Baltimore	1			1	2		12(1)			16(1)
Baltimore City	23	1					7			31
Calvert	1				3		3			7
Caroline										0
Carroll	2	1	1		1		7(2)			12(2)
Cecil		1					2	1		4
Charles		3	1	1	1	1	7	1		15
Dorchester							7			7
Frederick	3	1	1(1)	1	2		20(3)	2		30(4)
Garrett							2			2
Harford	3				3		10(1)			16(1)
Howard	2	2			1		8	1		14
Kent	1									1
Montgomery	11(1)				3	3	18(3)			35(4)
Prince George's	7				2		5			14
Queen Anne's							4	1		5
Somerset		1			1(1)		10(1)			12(2)
St. Mary's		2			4		2	3		11
Talbot		1			1		5	3		10
Washington		1			1		4	2		8
Wicomico					1(1)		1			2(1)
Worcester		1				2	11(1)	2		16(1)
Total (New)	58(1)	16	3(1)	3	26(2)	6	150(12)	16	0	278(16)

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

<http://ideha.dhmh.maryland.gov/CZVBD/>

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/>

Maryland One Health Bulletin:

http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/diseases/bulletin.php