

DOC'S DESK

HSR 1, in July and August, had two more rabies cases confirmed, making three cases this year. Our cases consist of a skunk in Lubbock Co. (Feb), a bat in Donley Co. (July) and a bat in Randall County reported on August 20. The last time that HSR 1 was in any better shape was in 1996 when the total was two. But in reality, 1996 was a banner year with only one endemic case reported on October 5, 1996. The case in February of that year was an imported feedlot animal that brought the Texas Fox rabies with it. The span between the last endemic case in 1995 and the first endemic case in 1996 was five days short of a year (361 days since (1996 was a leap year). This year we have not done as well. We only managed to go 250 days without a reported case, but we're not complaining; compared to other Regions in the state, we are very blessed. The approximate state total as of August 20 is 576 animal cases with the unofficial number of cases in the Regions, excluding HSR 1, ranging from 4 (HSR 9/10) to 233 (HSR 7). The year-to-date total of 576 compares to the following totals on August 20 for the noted years: 431 (2012), 715 (2011), and the peak of 727 in 2002.

The recent rains that have blessed the Panhandle and South Plains have generated some mosquitos, as expected, but the West Nile virus (WNV) activity has not increased dramatically. However, some areas of the Region have just now begun to detect a low level of WNV activity. A couple of people have tested positive without a fever so they were not considered cases but can be considered sentinels. On August 14 a "probable" case of West Nile virus infection (a fever) was reported from Carson Co. The person had a history of travel so it may have been imported from out-of-state, but the odds are low based on the lack of detectable activity in the out-of-state destination until this week.

Another factor tipping the scale toward the human infection being endemic is the two equine cases reported from Armstrong and Donley Counties on August 16. Both horses were two years old and not vaccinated against WNV and had not left their home county recently. We are glad to report they did recover. While WNV does not kill all infected horses, vaccination is encouraged because it may prevent illness and may be relatively cheap insurance compared to the cost of disposing of a dead horse.

Statewide WNV activity has been relatively low compared to last year. So far only 18 human cases have been reported statewide (10 fever and eight neurologic) and 4 equine cases as of August 20, 2013. Since West Nile can be a very dynamic disease, please visit <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/> for the most current information.

Please continue to practice and promote the **4Ds**: **D**ress appropriately; **D**rain standing water; avoid being out at **D**usk and **D**awn; and **D**efend yourself with an effective repellent, proper clothing, and screens on windows if air conditioning isn't being used, etc. In 2003 HSR 1 had the highest per capita case rate in the state. So far HSR 1 is faring well in the WNV season, due largely to the drought. If everyone will make sure to survey their property after a rain cycle and empty standing water, the low level of activity may continue.

The new animal shelter at Pampa is reported to be within about 90 days of completion. If your community is interested in building a new animal shelter, and it is anticipated that rabies quarantine will be performed in it, please be sure to contact us for a plan review before any ground is

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HSR 1 ZONOSIS STAFF

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State Office
www.dshs.state.tx.us/region1/default.shtm

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broken, as required in 169.28 (b) of the Rabies Rules. If you plan to build a shelter without performing rabies quarantine, we would be glad to review your plans and offer input, but that is not required by law. Reviews are beneficial because we can help avoid common errors that may have been seen elsewhere.

On the world-front, the H7N9 influenza virus is still causing new human cases in China, but at a much slower rate of discovery. Since steps were taken to sanitize live poultry markets, the numbers have dropped dramatically. However, they did identify a human-to-human transmission in which both patients, a father and daughter, died. H5N1 influenza, aka the bird flu, is still active at low levels in Nepal, in poultry, and in humans in Cambodia and other Asian countries.

The MERS-CoV a new coronavirus originating in the Eastern Mediterranean (Saudi Arabia has the majority of cases) is also still active, but again, the rate of new cases has slowed. There is some speculation based on serology that camels may be the reservoir for humans. In addition, cats were postulated to be the reservoir. But they seem to be so sensitive to MERS-CoV, with death produced so quickly, that I question if they can be the reservoir. They may, however, serve as bridge species between the reservoir and humans. As many research papers conclude, more research is needed on this topic.

Here in the U.S. a cyclospora outbreak linked to fresh vegetables has sickened at least 576 people in 19 states. Texas has the majority with 240 cases. While a source was found for the outbreak in the Midwest, the source for the Texas epidemic is still eluding the epidemiologists. For up-to-date go to the Centers for Disease Control website: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/outbreaks/investigation-2013.html>

We will continue to monitor these and other emerging zoonoses and strive to keep you apprised of new developments.

Be safe – it's a wild world out there!

Subject: [Revision of Texas Administrative Code](#)

As a Veterinarian in the State of Texas, it is important that we inform you that on January 1, 2013, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 97, Subchapter A (Control of Communicable Diseases) was amended to add several new conditions to those reportable to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Among these conditions is Chagas' disease in animals.

Paragraph 97.3 (b) (1) now reads:

“(1) Clinically diagnosed or laboratory-confirmed animal cases of the following diseases are reportable: anthrax, arboviral encephalitis, Chagas' disease, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection in animals other than those housed in research facilities, plague, and psittacosis. Also, all non-negative rabies tests performed on animals from Texas at laboratories located outside of Texas shall be reported; all non-negative rabies tests performed in Texas will be reported by the laboratory conducting the testing. In addition to individual case reports, any outbreak, exotic disease, or unusual group expression of disease which may be of public health concern should be reported by the most expeditious means.”

With the exception of anthrax, veterinarians should report any of these conditions to their DSHS regional Zoonosis Control office within one week of diagnosis. Anthrax in animals is considered to be a public health emergency and should be reported immediately by phone to the appropriate DSHS regional Zoonosis Control office. Contact information and geographic areas of responsibility for regional Zoonosis Control offices are found at:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/contact/>

Instructions on how to report cases of notifiable conditions can be found on the Zoonosis Control Branch webpage at: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/laws/report/>.

Conditions in animals that must be reported to both DSHS and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), e.g. anthrax, may be reported by calling 1-800-550-8242. This number is maintained by TAHC. Staff from TAHC will notify DSHS as appropriate.

NOTICE

If you use an out of state laboratory to test for West Nile, or any other Arboviral Encephalitis, please forward the positive results to the Texas Department of State Health Services Office in your Region.

**Protect yourself
from the West
Nile virus
with the 4 D's.**



- 1 Stay indoors at Dusk and Dawn.**
This is the time of day that mosquitoes are most active.
- 2 Dress** in long sleeves/pants, loose and light-colored clothing when outdoors.
- 3 Defend** yourself from mosquitoes by using an insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Follow label instructions.
- 4 Drain** standing water in your yard and neighborhood. Also make sure that flower pots, water dishes, bird baths, and wading pools are properly drained so they are not breeding grounds for mosquitoes.





**Amarillo Animal Control
will be hosting the next**

**Texas Department of State Health Services HSR 1
Animal Control Officer Basic Training Course**

on

October 15-16, 2013

at the

Facilities Administration Building

823 S. Johnson Street

Amarillo, Texas

This two-day class will consist of 12 hours of lecture, video and guest speaker presentations that will assist attendees in their comprehension of the study material for the state exam on the second day. The cost to register is \$75.

Questions for the exam will come from the DSHS [Animal Control Officer Training Manual](#), so it is advised that attendees purchase one, though it is not required. An order form is attached if needed, along with the class registration form. To register, fax the completed form to **Ms. Tonya Finch** in the Canyon office and call to verify that it was received. The deadline to register is Friday, September 13, 2013. Acceptance packets should be mailed out within a week of that date. Do not send payment for the course until you receive the registration packet. Manual requests, however, should be mailed in with the \$40 fee enclosed.

For more information on the course, go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/>. The manual can also be found online here.

Chapter 829 of the Texas Health and Safety Code requires all ACOs to successfully complete a basic training course within one year of their date of hire. 30 hours of continuing education credit must be attained within the subsequent three year period. For those ACOs that were grandfathered in when Chapter 829 took effect on July 1, 2008, but are no longer in compliance as of July 1, 2011, you must retake the course and exam. It is our hope that officers will attend not just because of the legal requirement, but because it will enhance their level of professionalism, their knowledge base, and safety in the field.

If you have questions, please call Dr. James Alexander or Tonya Finch in the Canyon office at 806/655-7151, or me at the number shown below.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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Zoonosis Control Program HSR 1
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Lubbock TX 79424
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<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/>

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Zoonosis Control (ZC)
Animal Control Officer (ACO) Basic Training Course**

Application to Attend

Enrollment based on space availability. Course date you would like to attend: _____

(Please Print Clearly)

Name (Mr., Mrs., Ms.) _____ DOB _____

Animal Control/Shelter Agency Name _____

Mailing Address (Street or PO Box) _____ City _____ Zip _____

(Please provide the address where course information/materials and test results should be sent.)

Phone Number (_____) _____ Ext. _____ County _____

Email _____ Fax _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail to:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Zoonosis Control
WTAMU Box 60968
300 Victory Drive
Canyon, TX 79016

OR FAX to:

(806) 655-6448

For more information call:

Tonya Finch (806) 655-7151

Cost of attending a course is \$75.00. Information on how to submit payment will be provided by the Zoonosis Control Regional office. Do not send payment with this application.

Students will be tested over the material contained in the DSHS *Animal Control Officer Training Manual*. Students should study the entire manual thoroughly prior to attending a course.

Contact your Zoonosis Control Regional office or <http://TexasZoonosis.org> for further information on the manual and how to obtain a copy.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING MANUAL ORDER FORM

The *Animal Control Officer Training Manual* is available through the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The manual contains a basic course section, plus various state laws relating to animals. The manual is intended as a study guide for students attending a basic training course and as a reference manual for animal control agencies.

Students attending an animal control officer basic course will be tested on the material presented in the manual. Therefore, it is highly recommended that students study the manual thoroughly **before** attending a course.

Each manual **costs \$40.00**. (A 3-ring binder is not included; however, the manual is 3-hole punched and ready for insertion in a 1½-inch binder of your choice.) Make checks or money orders payable to the **Texas Department of State Health Services** and mail it with the following form to the local DSHS Zoonosis Control Regional Office covering your county:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Zoonosis Control
WTAMU Box 60968
Canyon, TX 79016-0968
Telephone: (806) 655-7151, x. 1104

(Complete, detach, and submit the following form with your check.)

Send Animal Control Officer Training Manual(s) to:

(Please Print or Type)

Agency or Individual

Date of Order

Mailing Address

Delivery Address (NO Post Office Boxes)



300 Victory Drive
 WTAMU Box 60968
 Canyon, TX 79016-0968
 Phone: 806-655-7151
 Fax: 806-655-6448

E-mail: james.alexander@dshs.state.tx.us

Dallam	Sherman	Hansford	Ochiltree	Lipscomb	
Hartley	Moore	Hutchinson	Roberts	Hemphill	
Oldham	Patterson	Carson	Gray	Wheeler	
Deaf Smith	Randall	Armstrong	Danley	Collingsworth	
Parmer	Castro	Swisher	Briscoe	Hall	Childress
Bailey	Lamb	Hale	Floyd	Motley	
Cochran	Hockley	Lubbock	Crosby	Dickens	King
Vanhook	Terry	Lynn	Garza		

DSHS FREE PUBLICATIONS

Those who have access to the internet can order DSHS publications online. The Zoonosis Control Branch has pamphlets on a variety of topics, such as mosquito control, rabies, animal bites, plague, encephalitis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and tick borne diseases. You can search for publications by title, subject, keyword, language, format or publications number, and pamphlets will be shipped to you at no cost. To order pamphlets online, visit the website:

<http://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/mamd/litcat/default.asp>

If you have any questions, please call Tonya at (806) 655-7151 ext. 1104.

PET FOOD RECALL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -August 14, 2013 - The Procter & Gamble Company (P&G) has voluntarily recalled specific lots of dry pet food because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*. These lots were distributed in the United States and represent roughly one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of annual production. No *Salmonella*-related illnesses have been reported to date in association with these product lots.

Salmonella can affect animals eating the products and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people infected with *Salmonella* should monitor themselves for some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely, *Salmonella* can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with *Salmonella* infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain. Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

This issue is limited to the specific dry pet food lot codes listed below. This affects roughly one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of total annual production. The affected product was distributed to select retailers across the United States. These products were made during a 10 day window at a single manufacturing site. P&G's routine testing determined that some products made during this timeframe have the potential for *Salmonella* contamination. As a precautionary measure, P&G is recalling the potentially impacted products made during this timeframe. No other dry dog food, dry cat food, dog or cat canned wet food, biscuits/treats or supplements are affected by this announcement.

P&G is retrieving these products as a precautionary measure. Consumers who purchased a product listed below should stop using the product and discard it and contact P&G toll-free at 800-208-0172 (Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM EST), or via website at www.iams.com¹ or www.eukanuba.com². Media Contact: Jason Taylor 513-622-1111.