

## DOC'S DESK

The year 2013 closed with minimal rabies activity in HSR 1 and a somewhat surprising amount of West Nile virus (WNV) activity. While we were thankful for reduced rabies activity, it was disappointing that WNV made a come back.

The rabies cases in HSR 1 occurred in: Donley Co. (1 bat - July); Gray Co. (2 bats - October); Lubbock Co. (2 skunks - Feb and October); and Randall Co. (1 bat - August). I believe this low incidence may be attributed to the population reduction in 2011 when we had 65 confirmed cases and the on-going drought that has reduced food sources. I encourage everyone that lives in potential skunk habitat to discourage the reproductive capability of skunks by not leaving pet food out at night. The more food those critters can access, the greater the probability they will produce larger litters. Larger litters lead to more skunks which can lead to more rabies cases. The statewide totals have not been finalized so a report for that activity will be provided in a future newsletter. The approximate total will be around 920 cases, which is more than the 682 cases in 2012 but less than the 1018 in 2011.

In spite of the relative lack of rain in 2013, we did have some rain storms at just the right time to produce mosquitoes and thereby, WNV cases. The final numbers have not been reported, but in HSR 1, our tentative totals for 2013 are 30 cases of West Nile Fever (WF) and 26 cases of West Nile Neurological Disease (WNND). I hope to be able to

provide final figures for our Region and the state in the next newsletter. While our totals were not the highest in the state, our incidence of cases/100,000 population led the state. More information may be accessed at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/>

In January 2014 the 20<sup>th</sup> Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) distribution in Texas occurred. What began in 1995 as a grand experiment in South Texas has become a proven rabies control technique used around the world. Karen McDonald, Tonya Finch and I participated in the program. The airplanes operated out of airports at Del Rio, Alpine, Zapata, Brady and La Grange, Texas. Almost 2.5 million vaccine packets were distributed this year by airplane, helicopter and by hand.

This year's flights were in three phases. The first was a maintenance zone covering 18 counties. It was about 25 miles wide and stretches approximately 650 miles along the Rio Grande from just south of the NW corner of Presidio County to the Gulf of Mexico. The baiting density for the border zone was 64/mi<sup>2</sup>. The second phase was a 50 mile square zone covering parts of five counties in the vicinity of Brady, Texas. Concho, Menard and McCulloch Counties were the primary areas covered. The baiting density was 100/mi<sup>2</sup>. This zone addressed any residual cases of the Texas Fox (TF) rabies variant that may be in the area. Up until May 2013 Texas had not had a TF case since a dog in Winkler County was reported on May 23, 2009. The dog had fought with a coyote a few weeks before becoming symptomatic with rabies. Then in May of last year a cow in Concho County was found to be infected with the TF variant. Whether she had just recently been infected or was a "long incu-

bator" will probably never be determined. However, since no other cases have occurred in the interim, she may have been infected some years ago. As a result of the cow, a concentrated effort is being made to vaccinate wildlife in that area to eliminate any reservoir of the TF variant that may exist there. An additional area of hand-baiting was in El Paso County to maintain a barrier in the event the Arizona Fox variant ever reaches the westernmost tip of Texas. It has been found near the middle of New Mexico in past years.

This year the "proof of concept" ORV for skunks in Fort Bend County Texas was expanded to cover 17 counties, roughly between Austin and Houston (please see map on page 3 for more information). The baits were distributed at two different densities (150/mi<sup>2</sup> and 300/mi<sup>2</sup>). Surveillance will be conducted to further assess the feasibility of an ORVP for skunks in Texas. Detailed information on the ORVP may be found at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/orvp/>.

The rate of detection of new cases of the H7N9 influenza virus in China has increased in January 2014, but so far no sustained human-to-human transmission beyond the second person has occurred. The total cases detected is about 300. While some live markets were closed, which seemed to reduce transmission, the Chinese New Year celebrations around the end of January increased the movement of people and poultry in what has been called the largest human migration in the world. About 3.6 billion trips will have occurred in China in conjunction with the Lunar New Year celebrations, which may be the cause of the recent increase in case reports.

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[www.dshs.state.tx.us/region1/default.htm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region1/default.htm)

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According to a report in ProMED-mail on February 4, 2014, it took four years for the H5N1 avian influenza virus to reach 263 human cases. The H7N9 surpassed that total in the last week of January, less than a year after the first human case was detected.

H5N1 influenza, aka the bird flu, is still active at low levels in poultry and humans in Cambodia and five other Asian countries, including China. In Cambodia, which reported its first case of H5N1 for 2014 on February 4, 69% (33/48) of the cases have died since the virus was discovered in the country in 2004. It is noted that children are the predominantly affected group in that country.

The MERS coronavirus originated in the Middle East (MERS-CoV) is also still active. Testing of camels has increased the level of confidence that they serve as a vector of the virus, if not as a true reservoir species. Saudi Arabia accounts for 79% of the known cases of this disease with a 41% (59/144) CFR. A total of 78 deaths have been reported out of 182 known cases in all affected areas, for a CFR of 43%.

With the continued cold fronts blowing through our Region, please be sure to provide extra food, water, shelter, bedding, etc. for outdoor pets. It is very important to prevent access of pets or small children to any sources of antifreeze. If any of it is ingested, call for medical guidance immediately.

As we begin to thaw out, soon we hope, be sure to remind folks to maintain current rabies vaccinations for their pets since the skunks will begin moving once warmer weather begins. As always, horses and other livestock that live where the skunks roam should be evaluated for rabies vaccination. Value, frequency of human contact, cost of disposal, etc. are all factors to consider in the benefit/cost analysis to decide whether or not to vaccinate a given animal that is not required by law to be immunized. The same decision for considering WNV vaccination of equids applies.

We hope everyone's year is off to a good start and continues on an upward path through the coming months.

## Current Training Opportunities through June 2014

Class	Date	Location
Basic ACO Training	March 12-13, 2014 Announcement on p. 4	Lubbock
Euthanasia Certification	March 14, 2014 Taught by Paul O'Neill with Odessa Animal Control Call: 432-528-0950	Lubbock
Local Rabies Control Authority Course	March 27, 2014 HSR 9/10 Zoonosis Staff Kathy Parker: 432-571-4118	Odessa
ASPCA	April 23, 2014 See announcement below	Lubbock



64th Annual James Steele Conference on  
Diseases in Nature Transmissible  
To Man (DIN)

Conference Website:

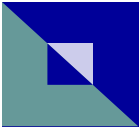
<https://sites.google.com/site/diseasesinnature/>



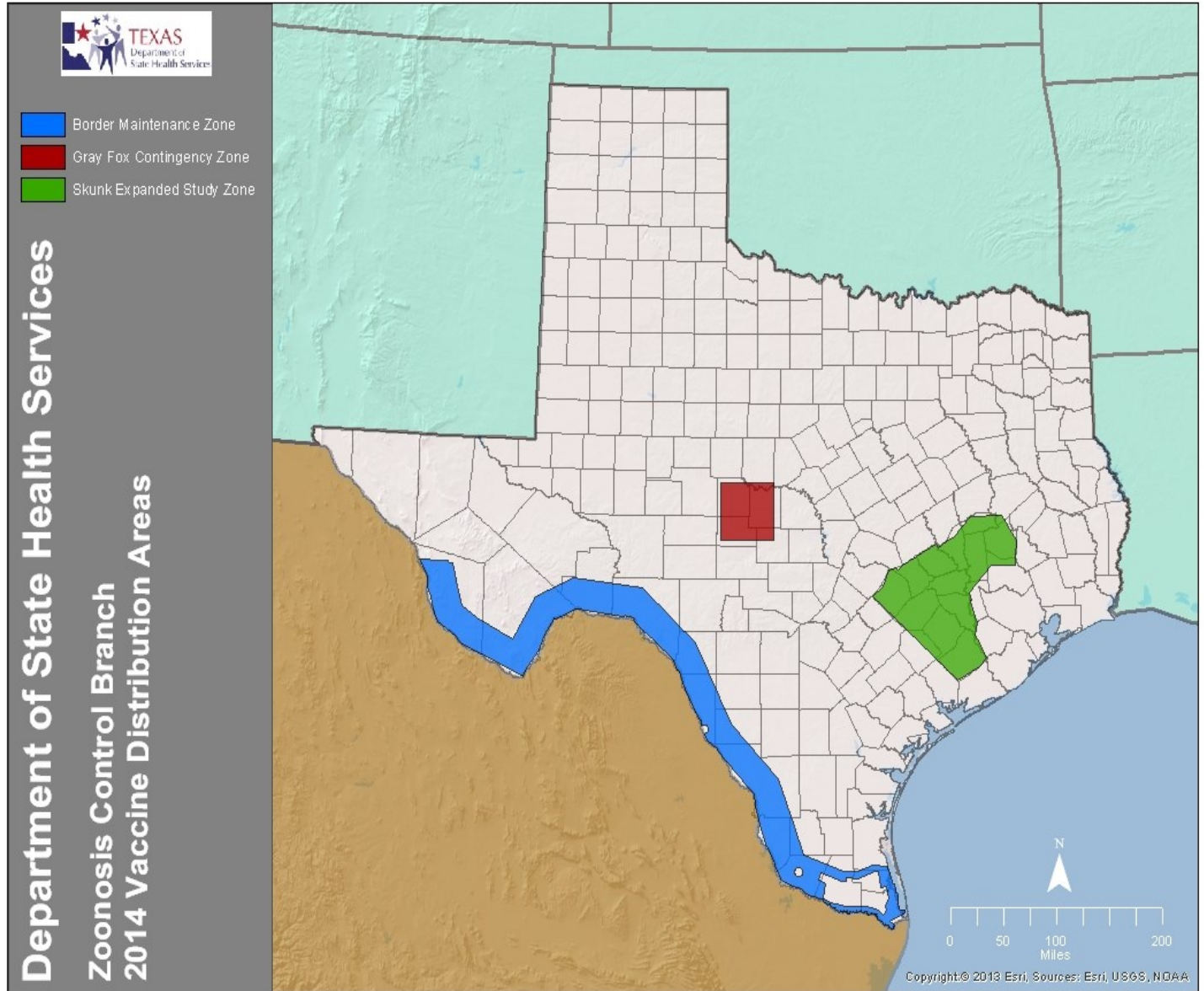
### CE Opportunity with the ASPCA

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) will be in Lubbock, Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to conduct a seminar on three timely topics: **Community Initiatives for the Prevention of and Response to Animal Hoarding; Planning for Large Scale Seizures; and The Fundamentals of Temporary Sheltering**. This free seminar is expected to run from 9 am to 4 pm and is approved for 6 continuing education units. Details are still being finalized, but you can expect to see an announcement and registration form in your inbox very soon.

Kathryn Destreza, Director of Investigations with the Field Investigations and Response – Anti-Cruelty Group, and her team come to us highly recommended by the regional veterinarians in Health Service Regions 4/5N and 6/5S. Clear the date on your calendar and plan to join us for this informative presentation.



# 2014 ORVP MAP



**Lubbock Animal Services  
will be hosting the next**

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

on

**March 12-13, 2014**

**at the Vector Control Building**

**(formerly the Training and Education Building next to the old Animal Services on Ash Ave.)**

**102 Municipal Drive**

**Lubbock, 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 Monday, February 20, 2014. 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.

NOTE: The ACO training manual has undergone another set of revisions after this last legislative session. A fully updated 2014 manual is available. No updates will be printed for the 2008 edition. New ACOs should consider purchasing a 2014 edition. Anyone wishing to have a current manual should consider ordering one as well.

For more information on the course, go to <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/>. The updated 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 obtained 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 Karen McDonald in the Lubbock office at 806/783-6422.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**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 1 1/2-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)

City

County

State

Zip Code

( )



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	Beckley	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.

## **2014 Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest Information:**

Rabies is endemic in Texas; bats and skunks are the most commonly affected species. Private residences and school grounds are the most common locations in Texas for exposure to rabid bats. Bat bites are not always noticeable and many people are unaware that exposure to bats poses a risk - most of these rabies exposures are preventable through education. Involving kids in a poster contest is a great way to instill the importance of vaccinating pets against rabies and avoiding contact with high-risk animals. The Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control Branch will be conducting the 6<sup>th</sup> annual statewide "Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest" for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The deadline for poster submissions is **April 14, 2014**. Prizes will be provided by the *Zach Jones Memorial Fund* (<http://www.zachjonesmemorial.org/>). You can download contest documents and view past winners' posters by visiting our website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/information/contest/>

Please forward this information to schools in your area and encourage them to involve their students. This would be a perfect activity for schools participating in C-Scope as an informational text or procedural text assignment or as an excellent extra-credit project for an art or science class. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you in advance!

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