
The AWHN is interested in receiving test results and any reports of disease testing or events in the following categories: mass or unexpected mortalities/morbidities of unknown causes; significant clusters of deaths; suspect livestock associated notifiable diseases; undiagnosed syndromes; suspected human/zoonotic connection; diseases likely to spread and be difficult to eradicate if they become established; suspected exotic and OIE list diseases; diseases with overseas events or international drivers and; diseases listed as key threatening processes by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Current, specific disease reporting priorities are for: avian influenza viruses, Australian bat lyssavirus, Salmonella and West Nile virus. Please alert your appropriate local Wildlife Coordinator (contact details attached) and forward copies of all testing to them at the address below (negative results are also a high priority).

<<Contact details for Wildlife Co-ordinators 13 October 2008.doc>>

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AUSTRALIA
1) Avian influenza - ALERT (137)
2) Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) - ALERT (84)

OVERSEAS/ ProMed POSTINGS
3) Rabies - Russia: (Moscow) and USA: (North Carolina)
4) Tuberculosis in cattle and cats (UK)
5) Classical Swine Fever - Croatia
6) Anthrax, Wildlife - Zimbabwe: (Mashonaland West)
7) Scientists discover 21st century plague - Bartonella in Brown Rats
8) Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever - Uganda (06): (Bundibugyo), New Species
9) Parvovirus, Wolf Pups - USA (Minnesota)
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NEW UPCOMING EVENTS (1)

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AUSTRALIA

1) Avian influenza (AI) - ALERT (137)

AI viruses are often recovered from apparently healthy migratory waterfowl, waders, and sea birds worldwide. Migratory birds that can carry AI viruses visit many parts of Australia and may come from or transit through a number of the countries in which AI has been reported over the last few months. It would thus be prudent to consider this intelligence when investigating avian disease incidents or undertaking surveillance of wild birds. The AWHN recommends investigation and exclusion of AIV, WNV and paramyxoviruses in clusters of wild bird deaths in our region. Please report any testing to your local Wildlife Coordinator.

- Also see the AWHN website links
- Recent articles/items that may be of interest:

FAO has released its H5N1 HPAI Global Overview for September 2008
http://www.fao.org/docs/eims/upload/250774/aj175e00.pdf

WHO - H5N1 avian influenza: timeline of major events

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a905755270~db=all~order=page

NOTE: If you are interested in detailed updates on avian influenza consider subscribing to the DAFF EMPLANAI2004 mail list. You can do this by contacting Mike Nunn (Mike.Nunn@daff.gov.au) and requesting access. (We are grateful to Mike and DAFF in making access to this available to us all. Most of the information we post in this section we receive direct from Dr Nunn and his colleagues at DAFF.)

2) Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD) - ALERT (84)

- See the latest update on the Save the Tasmanian Devil website - http://www.tassiedevil.com.au/research.html#ancientremains

OVERSEAS/ ProMed POSTINGS

3) Rabies

Russia (Moscow):

The number of rabid animals has sharply increased during this year in the Moscow region. According to the sanitary authorities, the current year's indexes are the highest for the last 25 years. During the 11 months of 2008, 173 rabies cases in animals have been officially recorded, exceeding the previous record of 1984 (134 cases). The Raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) has become the main vector of rabies in the region, replacing the fox.


USA (North Carolina):

Confirmed rabies in a skunk and red fox in North Carolina.


4) Tuberculosis in cattle and cats (UK)

*Tuberculosis in UK cattle up 28%*

The incidence of tuberculosis (TB) among cattle has soared by 28%, according to the latest DEFRA statistics. Provisional statistics show a 24% increase in the number of new TB incidents in the first nine months of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. Combined with a decrease in the number of herds tested over the same period, this equates to a provisional overall increase in the TB incidence rate of
28%. The statistics prompted the Liberal Democrats to call on the government rethink its policy on bovine TB and badger culling.

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Bovine Tuberculosis, Feline:

Overall, while the *M. bovis* isolates from cats have increased, the most plausible explanation is that it is due to the increased surveillance resulting from the introduction of the TB order and the accompanying encouragement by Defra to submit samples.

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5) Classical Swine Fever - Croatia

Two out of 17 wild boars sampled after regular hunting in hunting ground Majdan II (III/38)(Sisacko-Moslavacka, Javnica) proved to be both serologically and virologically positive to classical swine fever.

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6) Anthrax, Wildlife - Zimbabwe: (Mashonaland West)

The Minister of Environment and Tourism Cde Francis Nhema says the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority and the veterinary services staff have put in place measures to reduce the spread of anthrax which has killed 88 hippos and 18 buffaloes in the Gachegache area of Kariba [district, Mashonaland West province].

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7) Scientists discover 21st century plague - Bartonella in Brown Rats

Bacteria that can cause serious heart disease in humans are being spread by rat fleas, sparking concern that the infections could become a bigger problem in humans. Research published in the December issue of the Journal of Medical Microbiology suggests that brown rats, the biggest and most common rats in Europe, may now be carrying the bacteria. Since the early 1990s, more than 20 species of *Bartonella* bacteria have been discovered. They are considered to be emerging zoonotic pathogens, because they can cause serious illness in humans worldwide from heart disease to infection of the spleen and nervous system.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-11/sfgm-
sd2112108.php
8) Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever - Uganda (06): (Bundibugyo), New Species


9) Parvovirus, Wolf Pups - USA (Minnesota)

New research claims that half of wolf pups born in Minnesota each year die from a highly contagious disease that has stunted the growth of the state's wolf population. The study, published in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, shows that canine parvovirus kills from 40 percent to 60 percent of wolf pups in Minnesota. The virus attacks the gastrointestinal tract and can kill pups within a few days. http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:2569734820010706: NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,74888

10) Trichinellosis, Porcine - Germany: (Western Pomerania)

Trichina worms, which infect pigs and cause a nasty rheumatic illness in humans, have returned to Germany, animal-health officials north of Berlin said on 21 November 2008. Trichinosis infects people who have eaten undercooked pork containing the nematodes. He said the worms appeared to have been spread by rodents from nearby western Poland, where the nematodes are rife. It has spread to wild animals in the Western Pomerania area. Decades ago, Germany wiped out the disease in domestic animals, but it is still common in developing nations. http://www.promedmail.org/pls/otn/f?p=2400:1001:2569734820010706: NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,74888

11) WDIN Blog Weekly Digest


E. Coli Bacteria Transferring Between Humans And Mountain Gorillas >>>FULL ARTICLE
Bat Disease May Be In New Hampshire >>>FULL ARTICLE
WDIN Highlights - October/November 2008
Poor safety training blamed for biologist's death >>> FULL ARTICLE

Prioritizing amphibian species for captive breeding to save them from extinction >>>FULL ARTICLE

Common cold virus came from birds >>>FULL ARTICLE

Reported Wildlife Mortality Events to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center Updated >>> Updated Wildlife Mortality Event Table

Puget Sound Researchers Find Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria in Orcas >>>FULL ARTICLE

NEW UPCOMING EVENTS (1)

- **Fenner Conference on the Environment** (through the Australian Academy of Science) on 10-12 March 2009 at the Shine Dome, Canberra (ACT, Australia)


- NOTE: If you are interested in hearing about upcoming events in the US subscribe to the WDIN wildlife health mail list (E: wildlifehealth@lists.wisc.edu)(see WDIN Blog above) or visit WDIN Event Calendar - Upcoming Meetings and Conferences [http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/c&aevents.jsp](http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/c&aevents.jsp) The AWHN Digest focuses on happenings within Australasia plus some of the more major and relevant overseas events.

NEW POSITIONS/OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE (1)

- **Lecturer or Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Health** - Massey University (New Zealand)


**PUBLICATIONS (4)**


- Note articles in sections above and a large avian influenza bibliography is available on WDIN. It is searchable and contains over 300 journal articles with new content added weekly. Articles are indexed and assigned keywords for easy searching ([http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/diseasepublications.jsp?disease=Avian%20Influenza&section=Literature](http://wildlifedisease.nbii.gov/diseasepublications.jsp?disease=Avian%20Influenza&section=Literature)).