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From Dr. Bob Ehlenfeldt, Wisconsin State Veterinarian:



We're coming up on wedding season. So, in keeping with the season, this newsletter's topics offer something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue.

Something old - Piroplasmosis. We thought this disease was eradicated a generation ago, but it's alive and well and living in Texas.

Something new - Accreditation. A whole new system.

Something borrowed - Announcements from the EPA and CVM. We're not the feds -- we're just passing on their news.

Something blue - Let's just hope the USDA decision to loosen up interstate requirements for states with TB-infected herds doesn't turn out to give us the blues.

As you can see by this newsletter, there continues to be a lot of activity in the animal health world with new and re-emerging disease issues, and program and staff changes. Those long slow summer days that we all remember from our school days don't seem as long as they used to be, and they are definitely not slow.

But some of the best outdoor time is on the way. Enjoy it with your families and friends.

Feds loosen TB restrictions; Wisconsin's remain

There's a new wrinkle in the federal TB eradication program. In mid-April, the USDA announced that it was easing restrictions on moving cattle from TB-infected states to TB-free states. Specifically, the USDA said that as long as states or zones with infected herds meet criteria for preventing the spread of TB, they will no longer:

- Automatically lose their TB-free status

- Face restrictions on movement of cattle and bison that are not known to be infected or exposed

Despite this change in federal policy, Wisconsin will continue its strict testing requirements for cattle, goats and bison imported from states with TB-infected herds. We will also continue our policy of requiring Wisconsin animals to be quarantined for 60 days and tested, or sent to slaughter, if they are taken to shows and sales in Minnesota and Michigan that don't meet our testing requirements.

State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt notes that we're sandwiched between those two states with TB, with a \$26 billion dairy industry to protect, so letting our guard down is not an option.

For more info, read the [USDA factsheet](#).

Meet me at the fair. . .

Fair season is sneaking up on us, and that always means questions about health requirements for fair animals. You can find that information for all species on our [website](#). If you have questions, you can contact Melinda Young at 608-224-4874 or email melinda.young@wi.gov during normal business hours (7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays).

Closing the book on piroplasmosis



This past winter we were notified that a horse that had been exposed to equine piroplasmosis had been imported to Wisconsin. The horse was part of a traceout from an outbreak originating on a large Texas ranch. We were able to locate the horse in Wisconsin, quarantine and test. It tested positive. After working with the owners here and in Texas, along with help from the USDA-Veterinary Services, we were able to send the horse back to the Texas ranch where it originated. The other three horses on the farm previously tested negative, and will be retested shortly.

This was a widespread outbreak, with traces going back to animals sold from the ranch back to 2003 and earlier. To date, more than 200 exposed horses have been traced to 21 states and 3 foreign nations, and 72 positives have turned up. Equine plasmosis is not endemic to the United States, but the increasingly international nature of the horse business has led to three outbreaks in recent years.

Many states have imposed import restrictions as a result of this outbreak, so be sure to check the [destination state's requirements](#) when completing CVIs for exports.

EP is tick-borne, caused by two parasites: *Babesia caballi* and *Theilertia equi*. It can also be transmitted on improperly disinfected needles and surgical equipment. Cases may be mild or acute, with horses in areas where EP is uncommon more likely to suffer the acute form. Signs may include fever, anemia, jaundiced mucus membranes, swollen abdomen, labored breathing, CNS disturbances, roughened coats, constipation, colic and hemoglobinuria. Horses that recover may carry the parasites for a long time, and continue to be a source of infection. It is a reportable disease.

For more information about equine piroplasmosis, visit the [USDA's website](#).

Dr. Smith retires

Dr. Gregg Smith, our district veterinarian for southwestern Wisconsin, has retired. We've already begun recruiting for his successor, and will let you know when we have that person on board. In the meantime, those of you who would ordinarily have called him for any reason can contact Dr. Dick Bourie, 608-224-4886, email richard.bourie@wi.gov.

Foreign animal disease training June 9; free CEU's offered

Our Wisconsin Animal Response Corps - WARC - is offering a free



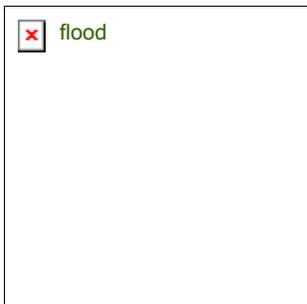
one-day training session Wednesday, June 9, with four continuing education credits available.

Foreign Animal Disease Responder Training will be held on the campus of UW-River Falls from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., with a working lunch provided. Topics include the workings and organization of an FAD response and biosecurity for FAD incidents. Dr. Tom McKenna, director of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory and formerly with Plum Island Animal Disease Center, will present a primer on foreign animal diseases.

Please register by June 1 by contacting Melinda Young, 608-224-4874, melinda.young@wi.gov.

WARC is joining with the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Reserve Corps to provide this training. You don't have to be a member of either group to participate. Learn more [here](#).

Speaking of emergencies...



Summer brings storms, winds, floodwaters - this is Wisconsin, after all. And there's always the possibility of fire, either in your clinic or nearby. Then, too, there are all those emergencies that Mother Nature or humans create that we don't imagine until they happen - think earthquakes in Wisconsin.

Do you have a plan in case your veterinary clinic were hit? The AVMA offers excellent advice on everything from relocating boarding or hospitalized animals, to backing up records, to continuing your business operations. Do you have an office calling tree set up? Is your insurance up to the task? Do you have a "sister practice" in case of emergency? Planning takes some time upfront, but it's time you'll be glad you spent when the unthinkable happens. [Read more](#).

And if you'd like to offer some free advice to your clients, send them to the [AVMA](#) or [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) for information about pets in emergencies.

New rabies policy at State Lab of Hygiene

Effective immediately, the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) will accept only the brains of bovine and equine animals for rabies testing, not the entire heads. The entire brain - cerebellum, brainstem, and cerebral hemisphere - should be sent. If you don't follow this guideline, it may delay testing. The change in policy is due to problems disposing of animal specimens and high shipping costs.

If you submit the entire head of a large animal to Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory <http://www.wvdl.wisc.edu/> (WVDL) for testing in addition to rabies testing at WSLH, send the specimen directly to the veterinary lab with both its requisition form and the WSLH form for rabies testing. WVDL will send the tissues for rabies diagnosis to the lab of hygiene.

WSLH lists guidelines for brain removal on its [website](#). For more information, call 608-262-7323 or go to <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/comdis/rabies.dot>.

Another honor for Dr. Bellay

Dr. Yvonne Bellay, our state humane veterinarian and rabies epidemiologist, has been recognized again for her public service. She received honorable mention for the 2010 Virginia Hart Award, given annually to recognize the unsung heroines of state service - women whose contributions may not be highly visible, but who demonstrate extraordinary achievement and community service. Recipients were honored at a ceremony May 20 at the State Capitol.

In October 2009, the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association named Dr. Bellay its Veterinarian of the Year, an award given to a member who has made major contributions to the profession.

Dr. Bellay joined the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in 1993. Since

then, she has developed the state's humane officer program and was instrumental in the successful 10-year effort to regulate dog breeders and sellers. Humane societies, local law enforcement and veterinarians know her as the state's foremost authority on both humane and rabies laws and practices.

Congratulations, Dr. Bellay, and thank you for your years of public service.

EPA moves to improve safety of spot-on flea and tick control

After an upswing in reports of adverse reactions, the Environmental Protection Agency took another look at spot-on pest treatments and found that the products can be used safely with some additional restrictions.

EPA's veterinarians learned that most incidents were minor, but unfortunately there were some pet deaths and "major incidents" reported. The most commonly affected organ systems were dermal, gastrointestinal, and nervous.

For dogs, the team found that small breeds were affected more than larger breeds for some products. The amount of product in a single dose needed to vary more for small to large dogs - that is, how much the dog weighs matters a lot in deciding how much of a product should be used.

For cats, the team discovered that misuse or accidental exposure of cats to dog products was an important problem. Cat can be harmed by dog products, and label warnings against use of dog products on other animals are not working well enough.

The team also found that the data now required to determine the safety of these products for pets do not accurately predict the toxicity seen in the incidents that took place.

The EPA is now requiring manufacturers to improve labeling, with clearer instructions and more precise instructions to ensure proper dosage by weight. Dog and cat products must now be more clearly differentiated, with similar brand names no longer allowed. The EPA will grant only conditional, time-limited registrations for new products, and restrict the use of some inert ingredients that may contribute to the problems. The agency will also launch a consumer information campaign to help users avoid errors.

Veterinarians should report any adverse reactions [online](#). Pet owners can call 1-800-858-7378 or email npic@ace.orst.edu.

For detailed information, visit the [EPA website](#).

FDA allows limited use of Vetsulin

Diabetic dogs and cats will now be able to receive Vetsulin if their diabetes cannot be managed with another insulin product, the FDA has announced. The agency recommended in November 2009 that animals on Vetsulin (porcine insulin zinc suspension) be switched to a different product, because of concerns about the product's stability. Since then, veterinarians and pet owners have contacted the FDA with concerns that other products don't work for some animals.

Veterinarians with qualified patients should call manufacturer Intervet's Technical Services Department, 1-800-224-5318, to enroll the patient in the Vetsulin Critical-Need Program. You will have to provide the medical rationale for why other insulin products are ineffective.

FDA provides more information at its [website](#).

Reminders

Accreditation changes Remember that the accreditation system is changing. If you are already accredited, your accreditation will expire unless you reapply by Aug. 2. For complete information, visit the [accreditation web site](#) at USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services.

Accreditation training The summer accreditation seminar will be Thursday, June 24, with registration at 1 p.m. and the seminar running 1:30-5 p.m. in Room 106 of the State Agriculture

Building, Madison. ([Map](#)) Accreditation is necessary to do regulatory work, such as signing certificates of veterinary inspection and official disease testing, and you must attend a seminar in order to be accredited. If you were previously accredited in a different state, but now practice in Wisconsin, you must be accredited here. *Preregistration is necessary.* Contact Marla Kieler at 608-662-0614 or marla.m.kieler@aphis.usda.gov.

TB certification training This year's CFT certification seminar is scheduled 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, July 14 at the State Agriculture Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison. ([Map](#)). This training is required for veterinarians last certified in 2007, so their certification expires this year; newly licensed veterinarians; and others who are seeking certification for the first time. The certification will be good until 2013. There is no charge and preregistration is not necessary. For more information, contact Margie Proost, 608-224-4877, margaret.proost@wi.gov.

Free RFID tags Veterinarians and livestock farmers can get free RFID tags as long as supplies last, for use as an alternative to orange metal calfhood vaccination tags. They're also useful for faster DHIA milk recording, potential discounts, and easier record-keeping for breed registries. You do not need an RFID reader or computer software to participate. Veterinarians can receive up to 1,000 RFID button tags at a time by contacting Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) at 1-888-808-1910 or emailing info@wiid.org. *Dairy producers* should contact their DHIA representatives. *Beef and pork producers* should call or email WLIC: 1-888-808-1910, info@wiid.org. *Deer and elk farmers* should contact Karen Torvell, 608-224-4896, karen.torvell@wi.gov. *Sheep and goat producers* should call the USDA-Veterinary Services office in Madison, 608-662-0600, ext. 5. The tags will be recorded before you receive them. You will receive a spreadsheet of the numbers, where you will record the premises ID and location where the tag is applied and date of application, and fax the information to WLIC. The info will then be entered into the USDA database.

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