State Vet on a Mission

State Veterinarian Brian Joseph has been deployed overseas with the Army Reserve, leaving his duties and responsibilities in the capable hands of other WSDA staff until early this fall.

Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle is serving as Interim State Veterinarian, assuming responsibility for Animal Disease Traceability and Animal Health. Dr. Ben Smith is the Assistant State Veterinarian.

Jodi Jones is the WSDA Interim Animal Division Assistant Director with authority over administration, budget, legislation, the livestock identification program and compliance.

Dr. Joseph shared his path to enlisting in the Army Reserve’s Veterinarian Corps, the war zones he has found himself in over the past 10 years, and his motivations for service. Click here for the full article;

Dr. Brian Joseph examines a golden jackal (Canis aureus) for zoonotic disease, rickettsia, hemoparasites, parasites and ticks.

Equine Disease Alerts on EDCC

The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) is an industry-driven initiative which works to protect horses and the horse industry from the threat of infectious diseases in North America. Reports of infectious and vector-borne disease cases are received from a state veterinarian, state animal health official or attending veterinarian, are confirmed and formed into comprehensive alerts, which are then posted on the on the EDCC Outbreak Alerts page. Alerts are sent to subscribers by email and posted on social media (check out their Facebook and Twitter pages). The email blast list is a free service. Anyone can sign up for EDCC email alerts on their sign-up page. The WA State Vet’s Office uses this tool to get timely information at to subscribers. For more information on how alerts are formed and how the EDCC functions, visit the EDCC Frequently Asked Questions page.
Reportable Diseases

WHEN To Report?
All reportable diseases must be reported to the State Veterinarian’s Office upon suspicion of clinical disease.
Any confirmatory diagnostic test results should be submitted.
Do not wait for test results to report! The State Veterinarian’s Office can provide guidance to veterinarians on testing, appropriate biosecurity, and additional requirements.

WHAT to Report?
Any suspected clinical case of a reportable disease
Any highly unusual condition, unusual clinical signs of any kind
Any high morbidity and/or mortality event
Any clinical signs that look like foreign animal diseases, or infectious disease or parasites of animals which was not previously known
All cases of acute equine neurologic disease

How to Report?

Proposed changes include but are not limited to:

- Removal of all disease already included on the OIE Notifiable Disease List in 16-70-010. This would mean that all diseases in this section are only in addition to the OIE list
- Differentiate “reportable and actionable” from “reportable for monitoring only”
- Simplify reporting times, i.e. report in 24 hours, monthly etc. This would categorize diseases to “actionable” and “monitored”. Actionable disease would be reported immediately and monitored diseases could be reported monthly.

Help Us Make Reporting Easier

The State Veterinarian’s office has received feedback from veterinarians that the current list of reportable diseases and requirements for reporting have made the process confusing, difficult to interpret, and cumbersome. In order to make the animal reportable disease list more user friendly and encourage regular reporting from veterinarians, the Animal Services Division in the State Vet’s office is looking to revise the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Chapter 16-70 – Animal Disease Reporting. Because of the importance we place upon your participation, it is our intention to provide you a more user friendly list and thus speed the process for reporting. We know that as professionals you are busy and that an electronic method of reporting would be ideal. It is our intention to encourage increased reporting and improve communications overall in partnership with you. We would appreciate feedback from private practitioners on how to best streamline this rule for users.

Please send suggestions to:
mbuswell@agr.wa.gov
Fax: (360) 902-2087
Mail: WSDA
PO BOX 42577
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Reported</th>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brucellosis (Brucella canis)</td>
<td>Canine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptococcus (not neoformans)</td>
<td>Feline</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine herpesvirus-1, Wildtype EHM</td>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heartworm</td>
<td>Canine</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptospirosis</td>
<td>Canine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clostridium difficile toxin A &amp; B, Clostridium perfringens alpha toxin &amp; Clostridium perfringens beta2</td>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strep Equi (Strangles)</td>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feline Corona Virus</td>
<td>Feline</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
USDA to Phase out Free Metal Tags

Last week, USDA published a new factsheet entitled, "Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: A Plan to Achieve Electronic Identification in Cattle and Bison." The factsheet clearly outlines USDA's plan to phase out free metal official tags and replace them with RFID by 2023. Animal disease traceability helps animal health officials know where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they’ve been, and when. This information is essential during a disease outbreak. USDA is currently working to strengthen its traceability system to protect the long-term health, marketability and economic viability of the U.S. livestock industry. While there are several steps USDA needs to take in order to strengthen its traceability system, the most essential one is to move beef and dairy cattle, as well as in bison. The electronic tags use radio frequency identification (RFID), which speeds information capture and sharing. Read the full article here:

Cattle Required to have Official RFID by 2023

**Beef Cattle and Bison**
- Sexually intact and 18 months or older
- Used for Rodeo or Recreational events

**Dairy Cattle**
- All female dairy cattle
- All male dairy cattle born after March 2013

Equine Herpes Virus is Forever

EHV-1 and EHV-4 are relatively common as a mild respiratory disease. EHV-4 occasionally causes abortion in unvaccinated mares. Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalitis (EHM), the neurologic form of either EHV-1 or EHV-4, is rare, but is potentially fatal. The neurological disease presents itself as a result of damage to blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord associated with the herpes infection.

If the horse has neurologic signs and a positive PCR test, we classify it as a case of Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). EHM can be “wildtype or Strain A” or “neuropathogenic or Strain G.” Both strains can cause equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). Typically the wildtype does not tend to be as contagious as the neuropathogenic type. However, the State Vet’s office treats them the same way when a case is detected. Horses that test positive and the premises in which they are housed will be quarantined. Clinical horses will be required to be isolated and will require two negative PCR tests prior to quarantine release. Remember to always take nasal swabs and serum for buffy coat PCR testing to capture both acute and clinical infection phases. Otherwise, you may get a false negative. Remember to report all cases of acute neurologic disease to the State Vet’s office. Find the WSDA blog on EHV here:

---

**RFID Implementation Timeline**

December 31, 2019
USDA will discontinue providing free metal tags. However, approved vendors will still be permitted to produce official metal tags for one additional year. Approved vendor tags will be available for purchase on a State by State basis as authorized by each State animal health official through December 31, 2020.

January 1, 2021
USDA will no longer approve vendor production of metal ear tags with official USDA shield. Accredited veterinarians and/or producers can no longer apply metal ear tags for official identification and must start using only official RFID tags.

January 1, 2023
RFID ear tags will be required for beef and dairy cattle and bison moving interstate that meet the above requirements. Animals previously tagged with metal ear tags will have to be retagged with RFID ear tags in order to move interstate. Feeder cattle and animals moving direct to slaughter are not subject to RFID requirements.
Rabies Guidance from DOH

The Department of Health has developed a Guide for Veterinary Offices for Handling Calls about Bat Encounters.

This guide strengthens the connections between pet veterinary offices and their local health department when responding to public calls concerning bat encounters.

It stresses the importance of the public contacting their local health department immediately to triage possible human and pet rabies exposure.

Here is the updated fact sheet, Safely Capturing Bats for Rabies Testing that acts as a companion piece to the Guide.

The Guide can also be found on DOH’s Veterinary Resources webpage under zoonotic disease prevention.
Purpose/Objective: John Welsch and Pamela Phillips will be the presenters for the webinar. John will discuss some of the history of the screwworm program, including the people who came up with new ideas, conducted the science to prove the theories, and implemented the results to make the Screwworm Eradication Program successful. Included will be the sterile insect technique, mass rearing, surveillance and dispersal. Pamela will discuss the use of remote sensing to classify screwworm habitats in order to specifically direct field activities such as trapping and sterile fly release. Included will be how the techniques and protocols that she developed are used to direct dispersal of sterile flies aerially over large areas, and the placement of ground release sites in specific areas due to local ecological, geographical, and meteorological conditions.

Participant Webinar Instructions
The conference begins at 11:00 AM Eastern Time on May 2, 2019; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior.
Step 1: Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633
Access Code: 0403201##
Step 2: Join the conference on your computer.
Entry Link: http://ems8.intellor.com/login/814584

When you access the entry link above, you will be provided a choice - to install the WebEx plug-in for your preferred browser or to join the web conference using a temporary path. Either option is acceptable. Need technical assistance? Call the AT&T Help Desk at 1-888-796-6118 or 1-847-562-7015.

COMING IN JUNE
ADT Program Update– Vets can learn how to get free readers and tags
African Swine Fever– Everything you need to know
Update on Virulent New Castle disease in California

Washington State Department of Agriculture