

Washington State VETERINARIAN



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BOVINE WSDA ADT Program Updates

Animal disease traceability (ADT) is critical to ensuring a rapid response when animal disease events happen.

An efficient and accurate traceability system reduces the number of animals and amount of response time involved in a disease investigation, reducing the economic impact on livestock producers.

A robust birth-to-slaughter or bookend system allows individual diseased and at-risk animals to be tracked to a place and point in time throughout the life of the animal. ADT is based on individual identification being recorded at birth, commingling, change of ownership and harvest. The ability to trace an individual as opposed to a group of animals allows fewer farms to face quarantine in the face of a disease event.

How does WSDA's ADT system work?

WSDA created an ADT system called Animal Tracks to capture data from animal health records and brand inspection. Animal health records that include individual official identification are the backbone of ADT in Washington State. Animal health records provided by accredited veterinarians include Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (electronic and paper), entry permits, federal brucellosis and TB test records, federal

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brucellosis vaccination records, and trichomoniasis test records. These records provide WSDA with birth premises and animal movement data, which is critically important if and when traceback is required. Animal Tracks also captures other animal health data including tag distribution information, hold/quarantine orders, and interstate grazing permit data.

Why is an ADT system so important?

The disease testing process and stop movement controls are time-consuming, expensive, and frustrating for producers. Individual identification is critical to protect our animal industry economy in the face of a disease outbreak. TB is a great example of the importance of an ADT system.

In recent months, tuberculosis (*Mycoplasma bovis*) has been detected in or traced out to beef and dairy herds in MT, NM, SD, TX, WI and MI. In November 2018, South Dakota detected TB in a beef steer at slaughter. The infected animal was a black steer with a pink production tag and came from a feedlot in central South Dakota. Sources of cattle into the feedlot were extensive, but the State Veterinarian's office was able to narrow it down to 99 potential source herds in 5 states (MT, WY, ND, SD, and MN). All 99 herds were placed under quarantine. As of May 2019, twenty-eight of those herds remain untested. If the steer had been tagged with official individual identification and correlated with accurate records, a more precise trace would have spared 98 herds frustration and lost revenue. Herds under quarantine are unable to engage in commerce due to quarantine. The inability to move animals results in cattle being kept on feed longer and ultimately unsubsidized losses to the producer.

What has the ADT Program been doing in the last year?

In the last year, WSDA's ADT Program has focused building infrastructure for capturing electronic individual identification at public livestock markets and slaughter facilities. In 2019, WSDA will work to identify additional opportunities to electronically collect traceability movement information during commerce and comingling locations. These locations pose a high risk for potential disease spread and are a higher priority areas for ADT.

Markets

WSDA worked closely with software programmers to enhance the current market management system for capturing official electronic individual identification at public livestock markets. Three of the five livestock markets in WA State use the same market system called "Saletime." Those three markets (Everson, Stockland and Toppenish) account for 91 percent of the cattle sales in livestock markets. Chehalis Livestock Market is currently considering adopting the same system.

The enhancements allow sale yard veterinarians to capture electronic ID with a wand reader and collect animal health information to generate an electronic CVI, brucellosis test record, and brucellosis vaccination record in the market system. All ADT market data is electronically sent to Animal Tracks real time at the close of each sale. Everson has been successfully using the enhancements for several months. Stockland implemented the

upgrades in April 2019. The ADT Program plans to work with the Toppenish and Chehalis markets to start the process this summer. **Once completed, WSDA will have full traceability information for 99% of market cattle.**

2017 PUBLIC LIVESTOCK MARKET REPORT

MARKET	CATTLE	%
Chehalis Livestock Market	19,259	9%
Enumclaw Sales Pavillion, Inc.	1,662	1%
Everson Livestock Market 1, LLC	14,978	7%
Stockland Livestock Auction	33,453	15%
Toppenish Livestock Commission	152,167	69%
Woody's Auction Market	0	0%
TOTAL	221,519	100%

Harvest facilities

As of February 2019, four of the largest slaughter facilities in Washington are capturing and sharing official individual identification RFID information at harvest. **Currently, WSDA's Animal Tracks can capture 98 percent of all animals with electronic official individual identification RFID tags harvested in our state.** WSDA is the first state in the country to implement a tag retirement system.

What's next in the ADT Program?

In 2019, WSDA plans to work closely with stakeholders to identify projects to close traceability gaps in the state. Priority will be given to segments of the industry with highest risk, especially where animals are commingled or at change ownership. Auction markets, buying stations, exhibition/sale events, and private treaty sale processes will be a focus in the coming year. In addition to low frequency RFID projects, money has been identified to enhance market systems to assimilate high frequency technology as it becomes available to keep up with commerce and accommodate producers embracing independent technologies for management.

One goal of the state/federal ADT working group and the USDA Marketing and Regulatory Program is to phase-in mandatory official RFID by 2023. Identifying a high majority of cattle with RFID will gain efficiencies over a parallel system requiring manual recording of individual identification. In 2019, WSDA is using local funds to purchase official RFID tags for markets collecting and electronically reporting animal health and movement information to the state veterinarian. In addition, WSDA has been purchasing tags for a tag promotion campaign for veterinarians and producers this summer. This temporary subsidy will assist producers transitioning to RFID tags before USDA begins phasing out metal tags starting in Dec 2019. ☘

SMALL ANIMAL

Don't forget, heartworm is a reportable disease

Veterinarians are well aware that infectious diseases such as heartworm can hitch a ride with rescue animals and traveling pets. But they may not know that heartworm is one of our state's [reportable diseases](#). Vets are required to notify our office when they encounter an occurrence or suspected occurrence of heartworm.



We bring this to your attention because we've recently seen several cases of heartworm in rescue dogs as they come to Washington. The State Veterinarian does not believe the disease is endemic yet, but the possibility of heartworm gaining a foothold is real.

Cooperation from veterinarians who report positive heartworm cases is one of the best ways to monitor the incidence of this disease. With your help, we can keep heartworm at bay.

Reasons for the increase of heartworm cases seen in Washington

- Animals relocating or traveling from places where the disease is endemic
- Man-made mosquito habitats
- New mosquito vectors
- Wild reservoirs such as coyotes

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How do I report heartworm disease to the State Veterinarian?

Send your completed [Veterinarian's Monthly Reportable Disease Form](#) to the State Veterinarian in the following ways:

- **Mail** a paper copy to: Washington State Department of Agriculture Animal Services Division, P.O. Box 42577, Olympia, Washington 98504-2577
- **Fax** the form to: (360) 902-2087
- **Email** a scanned copy to: ahhealth@agr.wa.gov
- **Call** in your report: (360) 902-1878 (WSDA's Regulations and Permits Desk)

From the WSDA Ag Briefs Blog

[Q fever: What sheep and goat owners should know](#)

[Practice good biosecurity to protect your horse from strangles](#)

[Protect horses from herpes virus](#)

[Keeping African Swine Fever out of the United States](#)

[State Vet: On a mission to make a difference](#)

Read other posts and subscribe at:

wastatedeptag.blogspot.com

Don't forget heartworm, continued from page 3

What documentation should I look for when rescue organizations bring animals from out of state into my practice?

- Dogs entering Washington need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) containing information specific to that animal:
 - a. information specific to that animal. The required information includes breed, age, gender, microchip number, vaccination status (including rabies), and statements regarding the overall health of the animal.
 - b. The CVI may also be accompanied by an additional rabies certificate issued by the veterinarian. This contains a rabies tag number, vaccine lot and expiration date, and other important information.
- State law prohibits dogs from entry if they come from areas under quarantine for rabies. Of note: dogs less than three months old do not require a rabies vaccination.

- Dogs six months or older must test negative for heartworm prior to entry, or show evidence of current heartworm prevention medication.
 - a. Some rescue organizations may try to import heartworm positive animals, improperly claiming it's allowed because they have been given heartworm preventative.
 - b. **WSDA will NOT accept heartworm positive animals into the state, even if they are on a preventative.** The agency will be updating this rule in the near future to provide more clarity and prevent misconceptions.
- Cats entering Washington also need a CVI. They do not require heartworm testing. Cats less than three months old do not require a rabies vaccination.

Exemptions to these requirements are found on the WSDA [Animal Health Program webpage](#) under Import Requirements. ☞

June 2019 Washington Reportable Disease Stats

DISEASE REPORTED	ANIMAL	NUMBER
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella canis</i>)	Canine	3
Cryptococcus (not neoformans)	Feline	1
Equine herpesvirus-1, Wildtype EHM	Equine	1
Heartworm	Canine	4
Leptospirosis	Canine	1
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> toxin A & B, <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> alpha toxin and <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> beta2	Equine	1
Salmonellosis	Equine	1
Strangles (<i>Streptococcus equi</i>)	Equine	5
Feline Coronavirus	Feline	1

IMPORTANT UPDATE

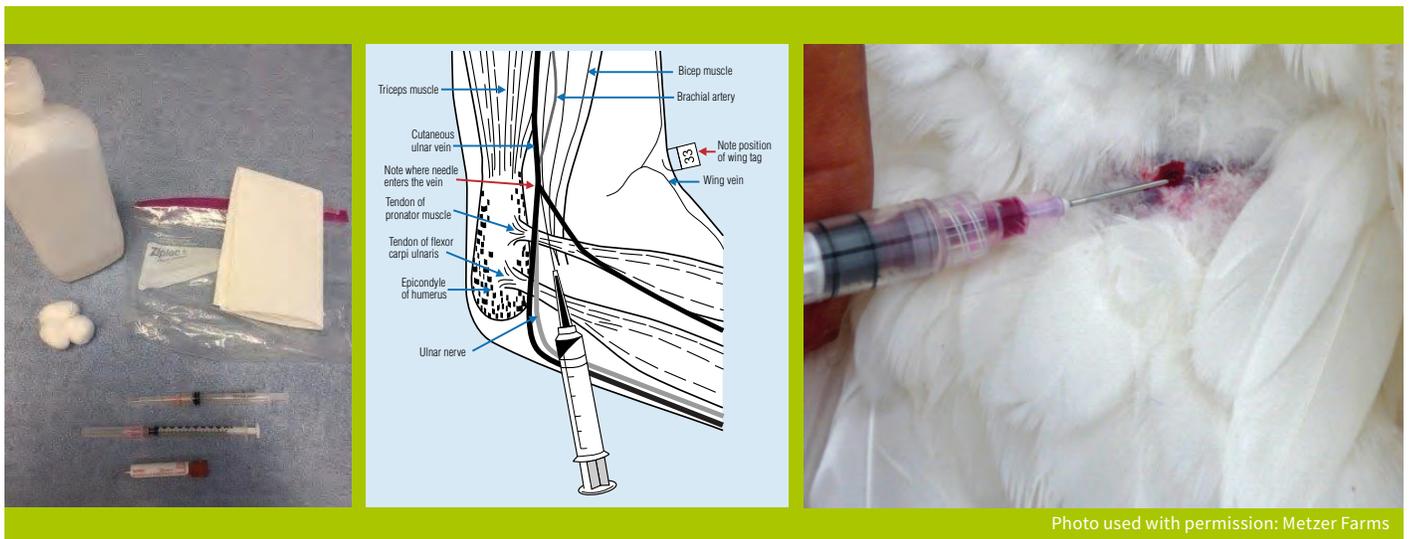
Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid testing for poultry exhibitors prior to fairs

In years past, WSDA field veterinarians conducted Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid (PT) blood testing and Avian Influenza (AI) surveillance at select fairs. However, as of last year, WSDA veterinarians are only collecting swabs for Avian Influenza. The specific requirements are as follows.

In-state poultry exhibitor requirements

All chickens, exotic fowl, and game birds must test negative for Pullorum-Typhoid within 90 days prior to exhibition. Waterfowl, doves, and pigeons are exempt from this rule. Exhibitors are exempt from this rule if they are members of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).

To test poultry for Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid, collect 1 ml of whole blood from the brachial vein (medial aspect of the wing) and place in a small red-top Vacutainer® tube. Other veins may be used as well, depending on the comfort level and experience of the practitioner.



1. Swab the venipuncture site with 70% alcohol and identify the vein between the biceps and triceps muscles.
2. A 3ml syringe with a 25g needle is commonly used to collect blood. In some instances, a TB syringe may be used. Chicken skin is very thin. Insert the needle bevel up, almost parallel to the vein. Small hematomas may form in the process, and it is important to apply pressure to the vein after collection to ensure bleeding has stopped.
3. Transfer blood into red top tube and label tube with sample number, species, owner last name, and date. Lay the tube on its side and allow blood to clot.
4. In the meantime, download and fill out the Accession Form for Avian Diagnostics found at waddl.vetmed.wsu.edu/avian. Complete the appropriate information, and select “Blood” under **Specimens Submitted** and “S. pullorum typhoid” serology under **Test Requested**. Reason for submission can be “PT testing required for exhibition at the fair” or something similar.

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Salmonella Pullorum Typhoid, cont'd from page 5

Only ONE accession form per owner is necessary, as individual birds can be listed in the history section or on a separate piece of paper. The lab charges \$3.00 per bird for the PT test.

- The blood tubes should be individually wrapped in an absorbent material and placed in a Ziploc® bag. It is best to use an insulated shipping container with a small ice pack for overnight mailing (avoid placing the specimen directly on the ice pack to prevent freezing). Please contact the laboratory if you expect specimens to arrive outside of normal business hours Monday through Friday (please avoid this if possible).
- Place the samples and the accession form (in its own Ziploc® bag) into the shipping container and mail to:

Avian Health and Food Safety Laboratory
2607 West Pioneer
Puyallup, WA 98371

If there are any further questions, please contact your WSDA regional field veterinarian for assistance. Here's a list of [Animal Health Program contacts](#). ☞

ACCESSION FORM FOR AVIAN DIAGNOSTICS												
<small>Mailing and Shipping address: 2607 West Pioneer Puyallup, WA 98371-4900</small>			Avian Health and Food Safety Laboratory Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University <small>Web Site: https://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/avian</small>				<small>Phone: 253-445-4537 Fax: 253-445-4544 E-Mail: waddiah@vetmed.wsu.edu</small>					
<small>Please type or use ink and print clearly.</small>												
Veterinarian: Clinic: _____ First time Submitter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Street address: _____ PO box or Mailing address: City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____												
Owner: Farm Name: _____ First time Submitter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Street address: _____ PO box or Mailing address: City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____												
Billing: <input type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Party (preapproval required) <small>Please note: WADDL policy is to bill the clinic, if provided.</small>												
<small>Please fill out appropriate section below as completely as possible:</small>												
Species	Breed	Sex	Age	Animal ID (name / band #)	Number Birds on Farm	Number of Deaths in Last 3 Days	Number Sick					
Type of Feed		Vaccinations/Medications/Antibiotics			Duration of Problem							
Specimen(s) Submitted: <small>Date Collected: _____ Date Shipped: _____</small> # of Birds _____ Live <input type="checkbox"/> or Dead <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blood <input type="checkbox"/> Serum <input type="checkbox"/> Swab <input type="checkbox"/> Fluff <input type="checkbox"/> Feeces <input type="checkbox"/> Dragswabs <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Chickpaper <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <small>Dead Bird Shipping Instructions: Remove feather insulation with some soap and plenty of cold running water (do not rinse); package in an insulated box with icepacks; send overnight delivery. Avoid shipping close to a weekend.</small>												
TEST REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/> Necropsy (autopsy) <input type="checkbox"/> Histology <input type="checkbox"/> Toxicology <small>(Samples are forwarded to meat lab if Plaster for testing)</small> <small>WADDL reserves the right to modify the tests requested for more efficient case work-up and/or to send specimens to outside laboratories to perform testing not done at WADDL.</small>												
Serology (Immunodiagnosics): <input type="checkbox"/> Avian Influenza (AI) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. pullorum / typhoid <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma gallisepticum (MG) <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma synoviae (MS) <input type="checkbox"/> Newcastle (NDV or aPMV-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious bronchitis (IB) <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious bursal disease (IBD) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			Microbiology: <input type="checkbox"/> Bacteria isolation & id. <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella isolation <input type="checkbox"/> FDA or NPIP <input type="checkbox"/> Parasite detection <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus isolation <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma isolation <input type="checkbox"/> Virus isolation <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			Molecular (PCR): <input type="checkbox"/> Avian Influenza (AI) <input type="checkbox"/> Newcastle (NDV or aPMV-1) <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma: MG & MS <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious bronchitis (IB) <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Anemia virus (CAV) <input type="checkbox"/> Infectious bursal disease (IBD) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____				<input type="checkbox"/> Sex determination <input type="checkbox"/> Chlamydia/psittaci <input type="checkbox"/> Pacheco's disease <input type="checkbox"/> Polyomavirus <input type="checkbox"/> Beak & Feather (PBF) <input type="checkbox"/> Pigeon circovirus <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
HISTORY / REASON FOR SUBMISSION <small>Describe clinical signs (e.g. respiratory, nervous, digestive, etc). Provide animal(s)/sample(s) ID's. Attach additional pages as necessary.</small> PT TESTING REQUIRED FOR EXHIBITION AT THE FAIR.												
Submitter's Signature: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Date: _____			Condition(s) Suspected: <i>kyo S. pullorum typhoid</i>						
FORM-QA-8N/1												

SWINE

African Swine Fever (ASF)

WSDA is joining the national effort to raise awareness about ASF. You can find information about how we are working to keep African swine fever out of the United States in this [WSDA article](#).

Signs of ASF

At necropsy, affected animals typically display hemorrhage of internal organs and lymph nodes, bloody intestinal contents, skin ulcers, areas of dead skin (Photo 3), swollen joints, and cardiorespiratory inflammation.

If you see any pigs with clinical signs consistent with ASF or respond to a large mortality or morbidity event in swine, please contact the State Veterinarian immediately. WSDA has funding to support free testing. ☞



Note abnormal blood accumulation and hemorrhage in ear tips due to ASF.

African swine fever is not a human health concern.



Pig infected with ASF virus. Note skin hemorrhages and extensive bruising.



Pig killed by ASF virus. Note discrete areas of dead skin.

Photo 1 provided by USDA APHIS; Photos 2 & 3: Permission for use granted by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Rule making activities

The Animal Services Division is proposing several rule changes this year. We have just started the official rule-making process and would like your thoughts on how the proposed changes may affect you. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

1. SHEEP AND GOAT DISEASES IN WASHINGTON STATE

WAC Section 16-89-022 is related to scrapie identification of sheep and goats. The proposed changes are intended to strengthen sheep and goat disease prevention and align better with USDA-APHIS VS rules. WSDA also proposes striking Q fever testing requirements for sheep and goat dairies. Over the last few years, WSDA has recognized there are problems with interpretation of Q fever test results. The department seeks to abolish Q fever testing requirements for raw milk dairies because it detects antibodies to *Coxiella burnetii*. Antibody tests only determine past exposure rather than active shedding of the disease organism. The test does not determine if the animal is actively infected or if the animal is shedding the organism in milk. Currently, there are no commercially available testing procedures for Q fever that give accurate, reliable, and definitive results. WSDA proposes the change in concert with Washington State Department of Health. In 2017, WSDA removed the Q fever testing requirement for cattle.

Please call or email feedback to Dr. Ben Smith at bsmith@agr.wa.gov or 360-350-0081.

2. ANIMAL IMPORTATION

Dogs, cats, and ferrets — importation and testing requirements.

WAC Section 16-54-170 is related to the heartworm requirements for dogs imported into WA. Washington State receives many dogs from states where heartworm is endemic. To protect Washington's canine population, the department is proposing to clarify that all dogs six months of age or older imported into Washington must be tested negative for heartworm or dogs that have tested negative for heartworm are on a heartworm preventative prior to entry.

Current regulations indicate that a negative heartworm test is required or the dogs must be on a heartworm preventative medicine to enter Washington state. The department is finding heartworm positive dogs on preventative medicine are being imported into Washington state. Heartworm preventative medicine should only be given to dogs testing negative to heartworm.

Domestic equine and equine reproductive products -- importation requirements.

WAC Section 16-54-071 is related to the use of equine passports. At the national level, the paper equine passport is being replaced by Extended Equine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (EECVIs). Global Vet Link (GVL) is the first vendor to develop digital EECVIs to support states offering electronic six-month health certificates. Through the GVL software system, veterinarians can create an EECVI online, submit it to their state animal health official electronically and provide owners with online access to retrieve their travel permits 24/7. State veterinarians then have access to the itinerary and traceability information in real time. Twenty four states are currently participating in this electronic health certificate, allowing faster sharing of results and records between producers, veterinarians, and the state; it is an ideal mobile method for frequent horse travelers. Many other states are working on rule changes to allow for EECVI.

3. ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING

WAC Section 16-70 is related to the reportable disease list and the reporting requirements for both veterinarians and veterinary laboratories. The Department 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. Both in state and out of state veterinary laboratories have failed to report diseases to the State Veterinarian in a timely or consistent way. The Department is proposing to amend the chapter to make the animal reportable disease list more user friendly and encourage regular reporting from veterinarians and laboratories.

Caring for our community:

Veterinarians and farmers at a greater risk of suicide

The mental health strain that comes with caring for animals is all too familiar to veterinarians. This stress is not limited to our profession, but extends to our clients as well. According to a [study conducted by the University of Minnesota](#), farmers in the 1990s to 2010 had a suicide rate three to five times higher than other occupations. A [recent story from a clinical psychologist for farmers](#) discussed how he has become overwhelmed with calls and emails from producers devastated by the flooding in the Midwest.

The recent snowstorm emergency and subsequent livestock deaths in Washington, combined with economic market downturns, should put us on high alert for potential mental health issues with our clients. If you or your client are in need of help, many counties in Washington have a county mental health crisis help line. For more information in your county, please view the list of at [Mental health crisis lines](#) on the Washington Healthcare Authority website.

[WSVMA resources for veterinary suicide](#)



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