Summer is nearly over and we hope you found some time to get away from work and enjoy the hot Colorado weather a little. With that hot weather and some increased moisture in places, we have seen a resurgence in West Nile Virus (WNV). Seven horses have been diagnosed positive in Colorado as this newsletter is published and certain areas of the states are seeing their worst year for human cases since 2003. In talking with vaccine suppliers, we know that WNV vaccine sales have been down the last few years, so please encourage your clients to vaccinate for WNV even now as fall approaches.

Please remember, if you suspect a reportable disease in an animal or see any situation that exhibits unusual morbidity or mortality which does not fit a normally expected clinical picture, please contact the State Veterinarian’s Office immediately at 303-239-4161. If after-hours, call the same number to obtain the phone number of the staff veterinarian on call. Click here for a list of reportable diseases in Colorado or visit our website at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals. Thank you for your help and let us know how we can help you.

Thank you,
State Veterinarian’s Office of Colorado

Summary of Items:

- **Join Us at CVMA** – State Veterinarian Keith Roehr will be giving an update at the annual CVMA convention in September. We will also have a booth to answer questions and sign you up for our free electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Come check out our iPad app, too!

- **Diagnosing the Neurologic Horse – Could it be Rabies?** Hana Van Campen, DVM and Charlie Davis, DVM of the CSU Diagnostic Laboratory contribute to this newsletter with a great reminder to keep an open mind when approaching a diagnosis of the neurologic horse in Colorado and beyond. Submitting the correct samples aids in a rapid diagnosis and can help with the management of infectious diseases, especially when they are zoonotic. Read more below as a reminder on test sample submissions.

- **West Nile Virus Update:** We have 7 reported equine cases, but human cases have been significant. Get more information and statistics for your clients here.
PEDV Update: Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus, what’s happening in Colorado?
While producers aren’t required to report death losses to our office, we know that PEDV has had a significant impact in Colorado. Read more about what we do and don’t know about the disease so far.

eCVI 3.0 – go electronic for free! Over 200 Colorado veterinarians are using our free electronic health certificate. Are you? Learn how to sign up and get started in just a few minutes.

ADT Reminder: The federal Animal Disease Traceability Rule went into effect March of this year. As a USDA Accredited veterinarian, are you complying? Get a quick review of how this rule impacts your business practices when writing health certificates and keeping records.

Bureau of Animal Protection Offers Cattle Handling Course Find out more about our unique course for emergency personnel and authorities on how to handle cattle in sticky situations like emergencies or neglect scenarios. Registration is open.

Chickens Hit the ‘burbs – Backyard bird welfare
Chances are you are seeing more backyard chicken and other small poultry producers in your area. Here is a great article from the AVMA to remind us all about common diseases to look for and general animal welfare reminders for poultry.

CDA will be at CVMA to talk about PEDV, WNV, eCVI, and the ADT
Behind all these acronyms, the State Veterinarian’s office (officially the Animal Industry Division within the Colorado Department of Agriculture), works hard to protect the health of Colorado’s animals. We know that this important task is a collaborative effort between our office and you, the accredited veterinarian. Please stop by to visit with us, we appreciate the opportunity to exchange information, network with colleagues, build working relationships, and enhance friendships.

Thursday afternoon, 9/19, Dr. Roehr will give an update on current animal health and disease in the state as well as the Animal Disease Traceability rule. Learn about the latest information regarding PEDV, rabies, anthrax, West Nile Virus, the Animal Disease Traceability rule, and more. A great discussion can be had afterwards between practitioners from across the state.

Diagnostics for the Neurologic Horse
By Dr. Hana Van Campen and Charlie Davis, Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory
In light of the number of cases presented as of late to the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, the attempt to diagnose equine neurological diseases becomes especially important and it remains imperative to keep an open mind with respect to the various etiological agents that might be involved. For
example, to believe that rabies is not the cause of symptoms displayed by a horse simply because you “don’t have rabies in your area” is not sound reasoning. For that reason alone, as well as perhaps aiding in a decision and prognosis for the affected animal or management for herd mates, potential exposure of people to life threatening agents etc., a diagnostic workup with a goal of pinpointing the cause is essential.

Given a neurological case for diagnostics, the approach would obviously depend on the status of the animal presented with respect to whether it is dead, alive or euthanized.

- **Dead or euthanized:** 1) rabies testing of brain tissue. If positive, further testing would be unnecessary. The obvious importance of this test lies in the resultant need for epidemiologic findings and follow-up to human exposure. If negative then have the brain examined by 2) histopathology. If the lesions suggest a viral encephalitis, then: 3) West Nile (WNV RT PCR test) and 4) Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE RT PCR) can be performed on the brain.

- **Live animal:** 1) serum sample for West Nile Virus (WNV IgM ELISA), Western Equine Encephalitis and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (both sent to NVSL). 2) nasal swab (in a RTT with 0.5 ml of sterile water or saline) and whole blood (PTT) for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV1/4 PCR).

In summation, an attempt to find the cause of neurological disease in horses requires some thought and planning based on the status of each case at presentation but seemingly in the end, submission of appropriate samples by the attending veterinarian to a diagnostic facility is so very important for a number of reasons as mentioned above.

**West Nile Virus**

Fortunately only seven cases of equine West Nile Virus have been diagnosed in Colorado while to date the human side has seen 87 cases and one death in 2013. Vaccination is crucial to limiting/preventing disease in horses, and until recently local vaccine suppliers had seen a decrease in sales. News of human cases has spiked vaccine sales again and likely will into the fall. Two good resources of information are:

- [http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/wnv/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/wnv/)

As a reminder: Clinical symptoms seen in infected horses include an elevated temperature, stumbling, lack of coordination, weakness of the limbs or partial paralysis. Of unvaccinated horses that exhibit clinical signs from the infection, one in three will most likely die from the infection.

**Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus Update**

Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV) was first detected in the U.S. in May this year. To date fourteen states have confirmed diagnoses. Cases continue to be detected and control has been primarily through biosecurity measures since no vaccine is licensed for protection. At this point, it is not entirely understood how the disease entered the U.S., but as a highly infectious disease many options exist. There is
speculation that it may have entered from foreign feed supplies, but no source of disease entry has been confirmed at this point.

As mentioned earlier, producers are not required to report cases of PEDV to our office, but we have heard out in the field that as many as 20,000 or more animals may have died in Colorado. See Table 4 from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians; it reports the testing results that have been reported by state and age groups.

Table 4. Total number of POSITIVE PEDv laboratory swine accessions / diagnostic case submissions by age class from each State for the current reporting week and cumulatively since the week of 6/16/2013. Only States with positive PEDv accessions are included in this summary table. This table was added to the report the week of 8/18/13.

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(accessed 9/3/2013)

As a reminder, the clinical signs of PED are very similar to TGE (transmissible gastroenteritis) causing severe gastroenteritis, dehydration, diarrhea, vomiting, and death in young pigs. In pigs less than 7 days of age, mortality can reach 100%. Older pigs may only show vomiting, diarrhea, and anorexia.

PED exists in many parts of the world. PED is not a listed disease of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE); is not considered a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) in the United States; and there are currently no interstate trade restrictions pertaining to PED in U.S. swine.

For more information on PED, go to:

**eCVI 3.0 - It’s Easy - Large or Small electronic Certificates of Veterinary Inspection**

Simple · Free · No Internet Access Required

Writing health certificates is a part of your regular work, maybe a few each week, or several a month? Did you know that we process **1,200 to 1,500 health certificates a week** in our office? That’s a lot of paperwork – and most of it is still in paper form. Any information that comes in electronically is processed much more efficiently and more accurately.

When you write a health certificate electronically you can save time and money, too. Plus the form is easy to email to your clients – which they appreciate. Our **eCVI 3.0** only requires Adobe Reader to use and can be emailed to our office for submission. No more postage and mailing. **Sign up now** by completing this quick form and sending back to our office.

**ADT Reminder**

Animals travelling interstate must be officially identified per their species’ requirement and be accompanied by an interstate CVI with their individual official animal identification listed. Animals travelling directly to slaughter may be identified with USDA-approved back-tags. Other terms of shipping may be agreed upon between individual states or tribes, such as acceptance of brands and owner-shipper statements. As always, we recommend veterinarians contact the receiving state to ensure proper import requirements are met.

For **Cattle**, the following animals must be identified with official ID ear tags:

- All sexually intact cattle and bison over 18 months of age
- All female dairy cattle of any age
- All dairy males (intact or castrated) born after March 11, 2013
- Cattle and bison of any age or breed used for rodeo, shows, exhibition, and recreational events.
- The most common official ID ear tags for cattle that will be used by producers and veterinarians are:
  - 840 tags (RFID, “bangle” visual tags, or a combination RFID/bangle)
  - Brucellosis or Bangs’ Tags (orange metal or orange RFID)
  - Silver, “Brite” or NUES Tags (silver metal)

**Horses**: Must be officially identified unless being used as a mode of transportation (e.g. buggy or horseback) for travel to another location and returning to the original location or being transported to for veterinary care and returning to the original location without change of ownership. Official identification can include physical description, ISO-compliant microchips (non-ISO if implanted before 3/11/2015 – 2 year grace period), and digital photographs.

**Sheep & Goats**: No major changes to current requirements. Follow Scrapie rules.

**Swine**: No changes.
Captive Cervids: No changes.

Poultry: Chicks received from hatcheries or redistributors to poultry growers do not need to be identified, but the growers need to keep records of suppliers.

Poultry moving to live-bird markets will need an interstate CVI (or other acceptable document per state) unless they are considered a custom slaughter facility under state regulations. Poultry are exempt from an interstate CVI when going directly to slaughter or rendering.

Record Keeping:

Veterinarians are required to retain records of interstate CVIs and other documents related to animal movement for 2 years for poultry and swine, 5 years for all other species. CVIs must be submitted to the issuing/shipping state within 7 days.

What does this mean for producers, veterinarians, and auction markets?

- Veterinarians will need to individually list all official ID tags for animals moving on an interstate CVI. Livestock that need individual official IDs listed on the CVI are:
  - Sexually intact beef cattle and bison over 18 months of age
  - Intact dairy cattle of any age (dairy steers need to have official ID but do NOT need the official IDs listed on the CVI)
  - Rodeo, show, exhibition cattle of any age
- Attachments with a list of official IDs for the individual animals can be used when accepted by the shipping and receiving state, e.g. VS-622 Tuberculosis Test Record.
- Producers and veterinarians will need to order 840 official ID ear tags from tag manufacturers or distributors who are required to keep records as to which livestock location has received the official ID ear tags
- Veterinarians will still need to order metal brucellosis and “brite” tags (NUES tags) or brucellosis RFID tags from the Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Laboratory (RMRAHL).
- If the livestock that are being moved interstate already have an official ID, that particular ID must be read and recorded on the CVI instead of placing another official ID in the animal’s ear

The main purpose of the new ADT rule is to ensure a rapid response when livestock disease events take place. An efficient and accurate animal disease traceability system helps reduce the number of animals involved in an investigation, reduces the time needed to respond, and decreases the cost to producers and the livestock industry. Questions? Call our office for clarification at (303) 239-4161.

CDA Offers Cattle Handling Course – there’s still room

The Bureau of Animal Protection is offering a free course in basic cattle handling to law enforcement personnel and other emergency responders. The goal of the course is to help familiarize authorities with cattle behavior and give them useful techniques they can use to get cattle off a highway, evacuate cattle in forest fires or even for use in animal neglect cases or other situations. There are still a few openings and
the deadline has been extended! If you know a member of law enforcement that may benefit from this training please let them know. Please have them register by email, info@coloradohumane.org, as some course materials may be emailed in advance. For more information call, (800) 249-5121.

**Chickens Hit the ‘burbs – Backyard bird welfare**

Dr. Kate Anderson, Pet Animal Care & Facility Act Administrator, thought this article might be useful for those of us seeing more “backyard chickens.” This article was originally published on the AVMA’s website in April 2011. As the popularity of chickens increases, this article is a good reminder of what diseases to look for and the general care of chickens.

**Urban Chickens: AVMA Welfare Focus Newsletter - Featured Article**

*Jose Linares, DVM, DACPV and J. Bruce Nixon, DVM*

*Members, AVMA Animal Welfare Committee*

From Baltimore to Los Angeles and from Austin to Seattle, chicken ownership has become the rage in urban and suburban centers. Offering easy access through the Internet, a cottage industry made up of hatcheries, feed stores and medication and equipment suppliers caters to novice and experienced poultry owners alike. Many owners keep chickens primarily for their eggs, but others develop strong human-chicken bonds and view and care for them as pets. Some people keep chickens as a solitary or family activity, while others rear their hens in community coops (a corollary to the community garden). These (sub)urban farmers form poultry interest groups to share experiences and expand their knowledge base.

Why do those in the cities and 'burbs keep chickens? There are a number of possibilities including:

- Chickens are likeable,
- Eggs are a nutritious and versatile food,
- They desire to have more control over the food they eat,
- They are part of the 'local-vore' movement (eating food produced close to home), and/or
- They see self-sufficiency as a safeguard against difficult economic times.

Sounds (mostly) reasonable, right? From the veterinary perspective, however, there are two important challenges associated with the urban chicken movement:

- Increased close contact between people and chickens increases the risk of zoonotic diseases (especially when people are uninformed), and
- Poor husbandry and poor biosecurity due to owner inexperience could lead to poor animal welfare (e.g., infectious diseases, malnutrition, behavioral issues, exposure to predators and adverse environmental conditions).

Ensuring the welfare of urban chickens and the health of those who care for them requires attention to these challenges.
ZOONOTIC DISEASE

Zoonoses account for more than 60 percent of recognized infectious diseases and 75 percent of emerging diseases.\textsuperscript{1,2} Two of the most important zoonotic diseases of poultry in the United States are \textit{salmonellosis} and \textit{campylobacteriosis}.

New diseases can also emerge from interactions between wild animals, domestic animals and people. \textit{Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 (HPAI H5N1)} is one example. Although not yet diagnosed in poultry in the United States, most cases of HPAI H5N1 occurred in countries where people live in close contact with poultry.

While it posed limited zoonotic risk, in 2002 and 2003 an \textit{Exotic Newcastle Disease} outbreak in California affected backyard and commercial poultry. A massive effort was put forth to quarantine areas affected by the virus and more than 2 million birds were euthanized before the disease was controlled.

NONZOONOTIC DISEASE

While not a zoonotic disease, infectious \textit{laryngotracheitis} can also be devastating disease for chickens. The regulatory response for infectious laryngotracheitis could result in quarantines and depopulation as was seen with the \textit{Exotic Newcastle} outbreak. The regulatory response to infectious laryngotracheitis varies from state to state.

In addition to the diseases already discussed, the novice poultry owner needs to understand the consequences of more common poultry diseases such as \textit{mycoplasmosis}, \textit{fowl cholera}, \textit{fowl pox} and \textit{coccidiosis}. A critical piece of information for flock owners is that chickens that recover from diseases like mycoplasmosis, fowl cholera and infectious laryngotracheitis become carriers. Unsuspecting people who acquire these birds may bring a serious disease problem into their established healthy flock.

BEHAVIORAL CONCERNS

Chickens can also suffer from behavioral problems (e.g., pecking, cannibalism) that may have dire consequences for the birds and be unnerving for novice owners. Potential solutions to injurious pecking include \textit{confinement} and/or \textit{beak trimming}, which may be unacceptable for owners based on personal ethics.

PROVIDING ADVICE ON CARE

Novice chicken owners often have questions about breed selection, housing, disease prevention and nutrition.

\textit{Housing}—Basic needs of chickens include:

- Appropriate floor space
- Proper ventilation to prevent buildup of bacteria and moisture
- Good quality litter
Wood shavings are an excellent choice
- straw should be checked for mold or contamination prior to use
- Hay is inappropriate due to harmful mold spores and dust

- Weekly cleaning of the house
- Nest boxes for laying hens located in the lowest, darkest part of the house
- Perches of an appropriate height that are adequately spaced

**Nutrition**—Nutritionally balanced feeds provide essential nutrients at critical stages in chickens' lives. Starter, developer and maintenance diets are recommended based on the age and growth rate of the birds. Maintenance feeds for egg layers are formulated to support egg production and contain extra calcium. Layer feeds should not be fed to immature chickens because the extra calcium is harmful for their kidneys. Many nutritional problems stem from vitamin and mineral deficiencies and often occur when novice owners attempt to mix their own feed, or feed their chickens mostly table scraps or just grain. Some feeds contain medication for the prevention of coccidiosis in young poultry.

Veterinarians looking for information to assist their clients may wish to visit the following links:

- [http://www.poultryclub.org/ACHousing.htm](http://www.poultryclub.org/ACHousing.htm)
- [http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/L396.pdf](http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubs/PDF/L396.pdf)
- [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PS/PS03300.pdf](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PS/PS03300.pdf)

WHERE ELSE TO GO FOR HELP?

Veterinarians counting urban chickens among their patients may stumble when trying to identify sources for practical advice. While most veterinarians are comfortable seeking help from a surgeon, internist or dermatologist, where does one find a poultry expert? They're rarely in the phone book. The largest veterinary avian community is the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV); however, its members are primarily companion bird-oriented (e.g., cockatiels, parrots). While some AAV members may be willing to see chickens, few would consider themselves experts on the subject. Many poultry experts are members of the American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP). This group includes many of the members of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV), the boarded specialists who spend their careers managing poultry flocks. They work in academia, government, industry and the private sector.

So how does one go about locating an advisor for poultry concerns? AVMA members can use the AVMA electronic Member Resource Directory. This directory allows one to identify poultry veterinarians who are AVMA members by state. The directory also provides contact information for those veterinarians (as long as the veterinarian has agreed to let the AVMA provide it). Another option is to contact a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, school/college of veterinary medicine, or an agricultural extension service. In cases of high morbidity and mortality it is advisable to call the office of the state veterinarian for assistance.\(^a\)
Veterinarians have an important role to play in caring for urban chickens. Veterinarians promote good welfare through preventive medicine and client education, while helping to safeguard the food supply and public health. Achieving these goals gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy chickens and ensure chickens will enjoy city life.

Footnotes

Some diseases are classified as notifiable. If chickens are sick or dying, contact your state veterinarian or call USDA's Veterinary Services toll-free number 1-866-536-7593.

References

Reportable Diseases in Colorado

The following diseases should be reported to the Colorado Area Office of the USDA (303) 231-5385 or to the Colorado State Veterinarian’s Office (303) 239-4161:

- Anaplasmosis (clinical disease only)
- Anthrax
- Avian Influenza (both high or low pathogenic)
- Bluetongue (clinical disease only)
- Brucellosis (bovine, porcine, ovine, or *canine)
- Bovine Babesiosis
- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)
- Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in livestock
- Equine Encephalomyelitis (also reportable to the Colorado Depart. of Public Health)
- Equine Infectious Anemia (positive Coggins/ELISA)
- Equine Piroplasmosis
- Equine Viral Arteritis
- Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHV-1 & EHV-4)
- Exotic Newcastle Disease
- Johne’s Disease
- Malignant Catarrhal Fever
- * Plague (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)
- * Psittacosis (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)
- Pseudorabies
- * Rabies (also reportable to Colorado Dept. of Public Health)
- Salmonella (pullorum or enteritidis)
- Scabies (cattle or sheep)
- Scrub
- Screwworm
- Trichomoniasis
- Tuberculosis
- * Tularemia (also reportable to Colorado Dept. Of Public Health)
- Vesicular Stomatitis (all species)
- Vesicular Diseases (all species)
- West Nile Virus

If an animal dies acutely and was exhibiting clinical signs of a reportable disease this incident shall be reported even though no diagnostic testing was accomplished prior to death.

ANY DISEASE LISTED ABOVE OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE OR ANY INFECTIOUS DISEASE OR PARASITE OF LIVESTOCK WHICH WAS NOT PEVIously KNOWN TO EXIST IN COLORADO SHALL BE REPORTED, I.E. ANY DISEASE OF UNUSUAL MORBIDITY OR MORTALITY THAT DOES NOT FIT A NORMALLY EXPECTED CLINICAL PICTURE.

*diseases of interest to small animal practitioners
# State Veterinarian’s Office

700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000; Lakewood, CO 80215

Front Desk = (303) 239-4161; Fax = (303) 239-4164

[www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals)

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**Rocky Mountain Regional Animal Health Lab**

2331 W. 31st Ave., Denver, CO 80211

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Colorado Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (eCVI) User Agreement

This document establishes an agreement in the use of the Colorado eCVI between you, a licensed accredited veterinarian in Colorado and the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry. Please read through the following terms of agreement carefully. By signing this agreement, you and the veterinary clinic you represent are responsible for the following conditions. Veterinarians that do not agree to or violate these terms will not have access to the certificate.

1. **Required Fields**. There are required fields on the eCVI. They must remain required and be completed in order for the certificate to be issued and official.

2. **Form Versions**. As major enhancements are made to the certificate it will be updated and re-released to participating veterinarians. It is the veterinarian’s responsibility to work with the Division of Animal Industry to ensure they are using the most current version.

3. **Signing the form**. The signature on this form is password protected and chosen by the issuing veterinarian. As the issuing veterinarian you will not share your password with any other party, including office staff, so that the digital signature is equivalent to a written signature. You also agree to digitally sign all issued eCVI’s personally.

4. **Distributing to Veterinarians**. This certificate will only be distributed to veterinarians that are licensed in the state of Colorado and federally accredited through USDA-APHIS-VS. This distribution of this form is done solely by the Division of Animal Industry. You are NOT to share this form with any other party outside of the practice listed below.
   - **Exception**: Issued (locked and finalized) eCVI’s may be emailed to the consignor or consignee upon that party’s request. Editable/unlocked forms may NOT be shared.

5. **Changes to the Certificate**. You agree not to change the form in any way regarding its formatting or design. Only the editable data fields may be filled for the purpose of issuing an eCVI.

6. **Form Submission**. You agree to submit each completed/issued eCVI by email no later than 1 week after completion.

By signing this form you agree that you have read through the above and agree to all of the terms in this agreement.

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Veterinarian’s Printed Name  Veterinarian’s Signature  Date

Practice Name  Practice Address  Practice Phone

Email  CO State License #

Please send this signed form by email to sara.ahola@state.co.us or mail/fax to the contact above, attention Sara Ahola.