

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS FOR VETERINARIANS

Public Health News for Veterinarians is a collaborative publication distributed by Local Departments of Health in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties to inform and update veterinarians about public health and zoonotic diseases.

In This Issue:

- Spotlight on Ebola (p.1)
- Web-based Tick FAQ Research (p. 2)
- Making the Link to Stop Abuse (p.2)
- Rabies Prophylaxis Statistics (p 3)
- Local Contact Information (p 4)
- Animal Disease Reporting Requirements (p. 4)
- Be Tick Free! Poster Contest (p. 4)

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Special Thanks To:

Dr. Alison Kaufman, DVM for her contribution and medical expertise in this issue of *Public Health News for Veterinarians*.

Spotlight on Ebola:

Ebola Guidance for Veterinarians

The current Ebola epidemic in West Africa and recent cases in the United States and Europe have brought to light concerns about pets living with individuals who may have been exposed to the Ebola virus.

Although it is possible for dogs to be exposed to and develop antibodies to the virus,¹ to date, none have ever been found to develop disease, nor is there any evidence that domestic pets such as dogs or cats can transmit the Ebola virus to humans.² However, it is not yet known if Ebola virus can be transferred from the body fluids from a symptomatic person to their pet’s coat or paws and spread to others.

The CDC recommends that local public health officials work with veterinarians to assess risk to animals living with patients diagnosed with Ebola virus disease (EVD), should additional cases be identified. A 21-day quarantine period may be imposed if the animal has come into close contact with a symptomatic patient, however euthanasia is not recommended except in the unlikely event the animal tests positive for Ebola virus.³ The chart below was adapted from an AVMA resource to help veterinarians ascertain risk together with local health officials. Practitioners are encouraged to consult the AVMA website for the most current information and additional resources (www.avma.org/ebola) and to contact their local health department with questions or concerns.

POTENTIAL RISK	NEGLIGIBLE RISK	NO KNOWN RISK
Pet exposed to blood or body fluids from a person with Ebola virus disease.	Pet in home of an asymptomatic person who had exposure to symptomatic Ebola patient.	Pet had no identified exposure to symptomatic Ebola patient or contact of an Ebola patient.
Contact Local Health Department immediately.	Consult Local Health Department.	No action needed.

[1] Allella L, Boury O, Pouillot R, et al. Ebola virus in dogs and human risk. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2005;11(3):385-390.

[2] CDC. Questions and answers about Ebola in pets. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/gas-pets.html>. Published October 13, 2014. Accessed November 6, 2014.

[3] AVMA. Ebola virus FAQ. <https://www.avma.org/public/Health/Pages/Ebola-virus-FAQ.aspx>. Accessed November 6, 2014.

Dutchess County: Web-based Tick FAQ

Tick-borne disease has been identified as one of several priority health issues to be addressed in Dutchess County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Community members participating in the CHIP committee cited a need for evidence-based information about tick-borne disease prevention presented in an easily understandable format.

The Dutchess County Department of Health, working in conjunction with the Cary Institute for Ecosystems Studies, is developing a web-based Frequently Asked Questions and Answers document linked to referenced reviews of the existing scientific evidence. As part of the development, the Department is seeking local veterinarian input in the selection of questions related to pets for inclusion in the FAQ. Feel free to share any questions your clients may have about protecting themselves and their pets from tick-borne diseases by sending them to Dr. Alison Kaufman, DVM at: abkaufman143@gmail.com

Making the Link® to Stop Abuse

In New York State, veterinarians may report animal abuse or neglect to the police, SPCA, animal control officer, department of agriculture and markets, or any other appropriate government entity.¹ The law grants immunity from civil and criminal liability to veterinarians acting in good faith to protect the health and welfare of a companion animal or the public. The American Veterinary Medical Association has developed guidance and tools to help practitioners assess risk, recognize signs of abuse, and respond to suspected maltreatment:

<https://www.avma.org/kb/resources/reference/animalwelfare/pages/animal-abuse-resources-for-veterinarians.aspx>. The AVMA recommends that practices establish internal policies and response protocols using these guidelines, and provides sample hospital policies for reference.

More often than not, animals may not be the only victims of abuse in the household, as studies have long shown that animal cruelty is frequently associated with intimate partner violence and child abuse,² known by the American Humane Association as The Link®.

While veterinarians are not considered mandated reporters of child abuse in New York State, any person who suspects a child is being abused, maltreated or neglected is encouraged to call the Child Protective Services statewide public hotline at 1-800-342-3720. The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (www.preventchildabusedutchess.org) is a local community resource that is also available to help answer questions and concerns, and can be reached at 845-454-0595. Suspected violence against a spouse or partner can be reported to the New York State Domestic Violence hotline at 1-800-942-6906.

In 2006, an amendment was signed into law in New York allowing pets to be included as part of an order of protection. Those seeking refuge outside the home, however, should be aware that not all domestic violence shelters accept pets. Clients should ensure their pets' vaccinations and licenses (if applicable) are up to date to make it easier to house them in a shelter, if allowable, and should have an alternate safe place lined up in advance, such as a kennel or a trusted friend.

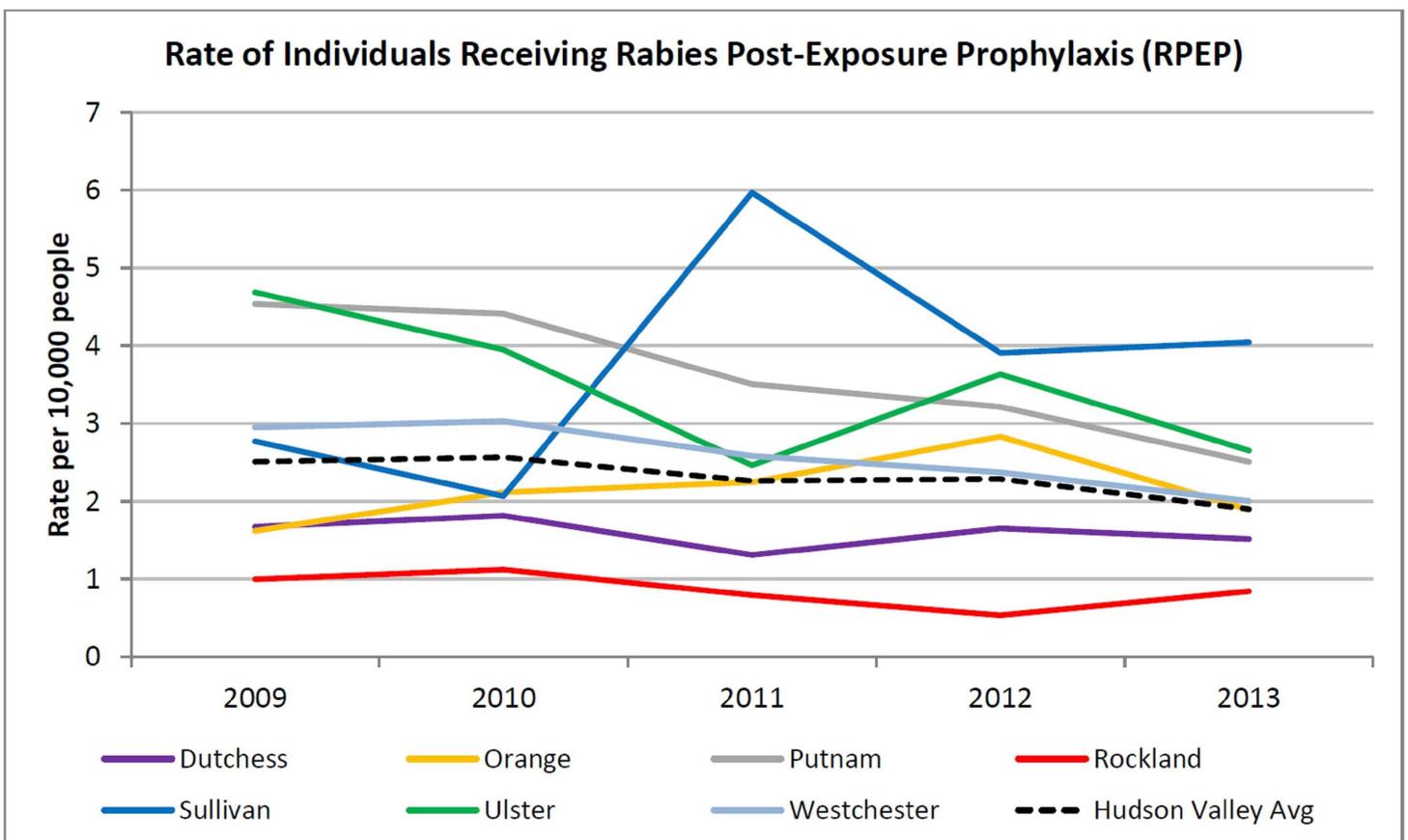
[1] Consolidated Law, Education Law Article 135 VETERINARY MEDICINE AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY 6714 (2), <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/>

[2] American Humane Association, Understanding the Link between Animal Abuse and Family Violence, www.americanhumane.org



Rabies Prophylaxis Statistics

Number of People Receiving Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis						
County	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Annual Average
Dutchess	49	54	39	49	45	46
Orange	62	79	84	106	71	76
Putnam	45	44	35	32	25	39
Rockland	30	35	25	17	27	29
Sullivan	21	16	46	30	31	27
Ulster	85	72	45	66	48	65
Westchester	282	288	247	228	194	270
Total	574	588	521	528	441	552



County Contact Information

County	Name	Phone	Email	After Hours
Dutchess	James Fouts, Assoc. Public Health Sanitarian	845-486-3404	jfouts@dutchessny.gov	845-431-6465
Orange	Tim Gaeta, Senior Public Health Sanitarian	845-291-2331	tgaeta@orangecountygov.com	845-291-2331
Putnam	Marianne Burdick, Assoc. Public Health Sanitarian	845-808-1390 x43160	marianne.burdick@putnamcountyny.gov	845-808-1390 x3
Rockland	Rick Price, Rabies Coordinator	845-364-2594	pricer@co.rockland.ny.us	845-364-2594 x0
Sullivan	Elizabeth Bradfield, Public Health Program Coordinator	845-513-2214	elizabeth.bradfield@co.sullivan.ny.us	845-292-5910
Ulster	James Rodden, Jr., Environmental Health Manager	845-340-3021	jrod@co.ulster.ny.us	845-334-2145
Westchester	John Hopper, Assoc. Public Health Sanitarian	914-864-7359	jjh9@westchestergov.com	914-813-5000

ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Any suspected exposure to a rabid animal must be reported directly to your County Rabies Coordinator above. Disease reports can be made by calling the Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502.

For more information on reportable diseases, please visit: www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/disease_rep.html

Questions or Comments about Public Health News for Veterinarians?
Please contact Katie Wheeler-Martin at 845.486.3751 or kwheeler@dutchessny.gov.

<<Announcing the Annual "Be Tick Free!" Poster Contest>>

Dutchess County's "Be Tick Free!" Poster Contest is open to children in the 5th & 6th grades (or equivalent) living or attending school in Dutchess County, and will begin accepting entries in January 2015. The contest promotes tick-borne disease prevention efforts and encourages children to teach others how to protect themselves against tick bites. This annual event will feature an award presentation to a 5th grade and 6th grade student at the Hyde Park Trails Trailhead on Saturday, May 2nd; where their winning posters will be featured and showcased on all the trailhead kiosks. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/BTFPoster>

