

# 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.*

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## Note on Canine Influenza:

Since April 2015, more than 1,000 dogs in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana have been estimated to be infected with canine influenza (H3N2), with six reported deaths. This particular strain is new to North America, but has circulated in Asia and is not known to be transmissible to humans. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, runny nose, cough, and poor appetite.

**Please Note:** The NYS Dept of Health notes a correction to a previous announcement from the NYS VMS; currently there is no NYS mandate for veterinarians to report influenza in dogs.

For more information on canine flu see: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/canine>

## Avian Influenza: Bird Flu Re-Emerges



The re-emergence of Avian influenza in North America has led to sudden death and large-scale culling of wild and domestic bird and poultry populations in the Midwest and Northwest in the past four months. An influenza strain of Asian-origin, H5N8, is believed to have spread through wild bird migration and has combined with North American viruses forming mixed strains containing the highly pathogenic H5 proteins.

While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk of transmission to humans low, the risk to bird/poultry populations is substantial and individuals with regular bird/poultry contact should be aware of signs of illness and practices to reduce transmission.<sup>1</sup> The two mixed strains, H5N1 and H5N2, were first identified in the Pacific flyway, one of four major migratory paths used by wild birds through North

America. Between December and April, H5N2 has since been reported in two additional routes, the Mississippi and the Central flyway.<sup>2</sup> To date, the viruses have infected commercial and backyard poultry flocks in 15 states and wild flocks have been infected in five states.<sup>3</sup> While the strain has not yet impacted birds along the Atlantic flyway, it is likely birds infected with the virus could travel along the Atlantic flyway during the southern migration this coming fall and winter. See the informational boxes to the right for symptoms and prevention information.

### Influenza in Birds Symptoms:

- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs, and legzgs
- Runny nose, coughing and sneezing
- Stumbling or falling down
- Diarrhea
- Sudden death without any clinical signs

### Prevention Recommendations:

- Isolate your flocks from visitors and other birds
- Prevent germs from spreading by cleaning shoes, tools and equipment
- Clean vehicles and cages before and after transporting birds
- Avoid sharing tools and equipment with neighbors
- Watch for early signs to prevent the spread of disease
- Report unusual signs of disease or unexpected deaths to the USDA by calling 1-866-536-7593.

**Resources:** Free English & Spanish Resources (Search for "Avian Influenza")  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/publications](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications)



[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. H5 Viruses in the United States. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h5/index.htm>. Published April 14, 2015. Accessed April 15, 2015.

[2] USDA. Avian Influenza Disease. [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa\\_animal\\_disease\\_information](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/sa_animal_disease_information). Accessed April 15, 2015.

[3] NYSDOH. HEALTH ADVISORY: CDC HAN 378 – Bird Infections with Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N2), (H5N8), and (H5N1) Viruses: Recommendations for Human Health Investigations and Response. June 3, 2015



A recent CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report has heightened awareness of an increased risk of suicidal ideation amongst veterinarians compared to the general population. The report, which draws from results of a 2014 survey representing 10% of all employed U.S. veterinarians (n=10,254), indicates that nearly one in 10 U.S. veterinarians may have active symptoms of serious psychological distress and more than one in 6 may have experienced suicidal ideation since graduation.

First documented in the late 1970s, commonly hypothesized risk factors for increased risk of suicide among veterinarians include ready access to lethal drugs and medications; occupational stress; professional and social isolation; stigmatization of mental health disorders and reluctance to seek help. A similar study in 2012 found that only 11% of veterinarians surveyed felt that suicide was a significant concern in their field, despite the fact that 25% experienced suicidal ideation and two-thirds experienced clinically significant depression.

Help is available if you, your colleagues or your staff are suffering from depression or are troubled by thoughts of self-harm or suicide. Know the signs and where to turn for support if needed. You are not alone.

**Suicide Warning Signs**  
(www.MentalHealth.gov)

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about being a burden to others.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings.

 <b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</b> <b>800-273-TALK (8255)</b>	  
<b>Dutchess County HELPLINE</b> <b>(845) 485-9700 or (877) 485-9700</b>	
<b>Orange County Mobile Mental Health Team</b> <b>(888) 750-2266</b>	
<b>Putnam County Crisis Hotline</b> <b>845-225-1222</b>	
<b>Sullivan County Mobile Mental Health Team</b> <b>(800) 710-7083</b>	
<b>Westchester Crisis Prevention &amp; Response Team</b> <b>(914) 925-5959</b>	
	<b>American Veterinary Medical Association's Wellness and Peer Assistance</b> <b>for preventive resources and support</b> <a href="http://jav.ma/1AX7Xtw">http://jav.ma/1AX7Xtw</a>  <b>US Department of Health &amp; Human Services</b> <a href="http://www.MentalHealth.gov">www.MentalHealth.gov</a>

[1] CDC. Prevalence of Risk Factors for Suicide Among Veterinarians—United States, 2014. MMWR 2015; 64(5):131-132.  
 [2] Platt, B., Hawton, K., Simkin, S., Mellanby, R. 2012. Suicidal behavior and psychosocial problems in veterinary surgeons: a systematic review. Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology. 47:223-240.  
 [3] Larkin, M. 2015. Study: 1 in 6 veterinarians have considered suicide. JAVMA News:246(7):707-709.

## Zoonotic Disease Statistics

### Statistics on West Nile Virus in Humans and Equines

West Nile Virus Positive Specimens by County and Year, Hudson Valley Region								
County	2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Human Cases, (Deaths)	Equine						
Dutchess	0	0	0	0	3 (0)	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0
Putnam	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	0	0	0
Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulster	0	0	0	0	1 (0)	1	0	0
Westchester	4 (0)	0	3 (0)	0	4 (0)	0	2 (0)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 (0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4 (0)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9 (0)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3 (0)</b>	<b>0</b>

Data Source: NYS Department of Health West Nile Virus Surveillance Summaries

### Statistics on Tick-Borne Disease in Humans

Tick-borne Diseases, 2011-2013* <small>(New cases per 100,000 population)</small>	Dutchess	Orange	Putnam	Rockland	Sullivan	Ulster	Westchester	NYS excl NYC
Anaplasmosis	22.2	6.6	25.4	2.1	0.0	9.9	1.6	3.3
Babesiosis	14.2	5.2	18.0	1.7	0.0	1.8	4.3	3.2
Ehrlichiosis	1.1	0.9	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.6
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.2
Lyme Disease	145.9	197.6	294.5	78.9	132.8	222.1	37.9	57.8

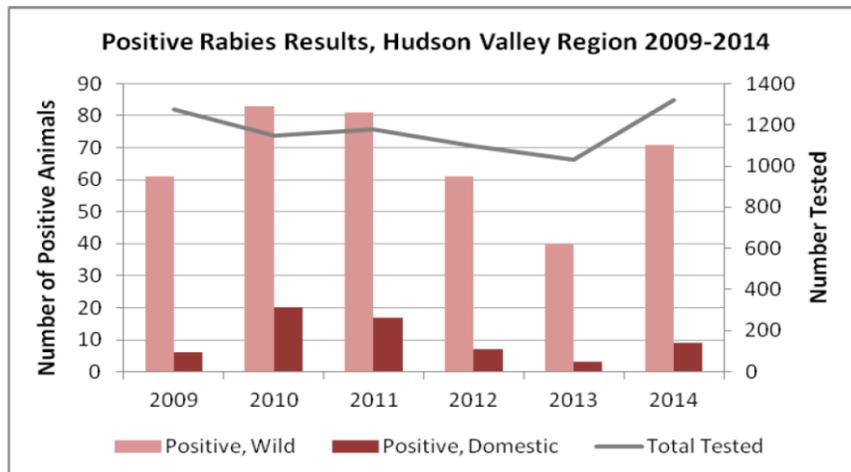
Data Source: NYS Department of Health Division of Epidemiology

### Statistics on Rabies in Animals

Number of Animals That Tested Positive for Rabies and Total Number Tested by Species, 2014																
County	Cats		Dogs		Other Domestic*		Bats		Raccoons		Skunks		Other Wild**		Total	
Dutchess	0	32	0	14	0	4	4	67	5	9	0	2	4	19	13	147
Orange	2	60	0	21	0	0	2	69	3	6	0	0	1	15	8	171
Putnam	0	6	0	5	0	2	1	127	2	5	0	1	0	0	3	146
Rockland	0	16	0	5	0	0	0	46	5	7	1	1	1	3	7	78
Sullivan	0	9	0	11	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	28
Ulster	1	32	0	18	1	5	0	52	8	12	1	5	2	10	13	134
Westchester	4	96	0	25	0	0	14	422	14	30	2	14	1	32	35	619
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1323</b>

Data Source: NYS Department of Health Rabies Laboratory Annual Summary Reports

\*Other domestic includes horses, cattle, and other livestock. \*\*Other wild includes foxes, rodents, rabbits and other wildlife



## 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

For more information on reportable diseases,  
Visit: [www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/disease\\_rep.html](http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AI/disease_rep.html)

Questions or Comments about Public Health News for Veterinarians?  
Contact Katie Wheeler-Martin at (845) 486-3751 or [kwheeler@dutchessny.gov](mailto:kwheeler@dutchessny.gov).

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