



Virus Affecting Horses Found at N.C. Stable

Virus is contagious between horses, but does not affect humans

RALEIGH – The neurologic form of equine herpesvirus, EHV-1, has been confirmed in a North Carolina horse. The horse, from a Rockingham County stable, was taken to the College of Veterinary Medicine at N.C. State University upon becoming ill, and directly quarantined to the equine isolation unit of the hospital.

“We have been fortunate that we’ve not seen this particular form of this common virus in North Carolina to date, even though it has been increasing in frequency throughout the country for almost a decade now,” said State Veterinarian David Marshall. “We are working with the College of Veterinary Medicine and with the stable to implement biosecurity measures and minimize the risk of further spread.”

EHV-1 is highly contagious among horses, but poses no threat to humans. It most often causes respiratory infections in young horses, but different strains can also pose neurologic problems, which the affected N.C. horse exhibited. The virus also can cause abortion in pregnant horses or neonatal death. Vaccines are available that protect horses from most forms of EHV-1, but not from the strains that cause neurologic problems.

Biosecurity measures to protect horses include quarantining facilities that are suspected to house EHV-1-exposed horses. Water and feed buckets should be disinfected and not shared. Stalls and trailers should also be cleaned and disinfected regularly to prevent the spread of disease. New additions or those returning from shows and exhibitions should be isolated for 3 weeks prior to comingling with other horses upon returning home. Horse owners should also talk with their veterinarian to determine a vaccine schedule.

More information about EHV-1 and how to prevent the virus can be found at www.ncagr.gov/vet/DiseaseAlerts.htm. Questions regarding College of Veterinary Medicine protocols may be referred to David Green at 919-513-6662.

Source: NCDA&CS Veterinary Division <http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/release/2012/1-12EHV1.htm>

Pit Bull Ban Fails in Ionia, MI

An animal ordinance to phase out pit bulls within the city limits of Ionia failed with a 5-3 vote at the Ionia city council’s Tuesday meeting. With the ordinance failing upon the second reading, Ionia City Manager Jason Eppler explained that the ordinance will be revised to remove all items regarding the phasing out of pit bulls and be brought back at the February meeting. Approximately 50 people, including Ionia residents, county residents, educators, and attorneys opposing the breed ban, filled the council chambers, all with one goal of “punish the deed, not the breed.” Source: *Sentinel-Standard*

Treatment for Feline Leukemia Virus

[Cattori V, Weibel B and Lutz H. Inhibition of feline leukemia virus replication by the integrase inhibitor raltegravir. Vet Microbiol. 2011; 152: 165-8.](#)

Feline leukemia virus is a retrovirus of cats that can cause cancer, anemia and immunosuppression. Currently, no effective treatment for FeLV infection exists. These researchers investigated the usefulness of an anti-retroviral drug called raltegravir that was developed for treatment of HIV in humans. The researchers tested the drug in a laboratory setting for potential toxicity to feline cells, as well as the ability to inhibit the replication of FeLV in these cells. It was found that, at least in cell culture, this drug inhibited virus replication and did not cause toxic changes to the feline cells. The researchers speculate that this drug could be used to reduce virus replication in FeLV-infected cats to the point that their own immune system could eliminate the virus, effectively curing the infection. Many more studies are needed, but this research offers a promising first step.
[MK] *Source: Winn Feline Foundation*

Mercy For Animals Undercover Investigation Prompts Turkey Raid

Authorities continue to investigate animal abuse at a Hoke County Butterball Turkey farm following a raid prompted by allegations from animal rights group, Mercy For Animals (MFA) Veterinarians are examining more than 2,000 turkeys at the breeding farm.

The December 29th raid came after the nonprofit MFA provided law enforcement with secretly recorded video footage that showed live turkeys being kicked, thrown, and dragged by the neck and wings. The video was collected during several weeks in November and December by an activist who was hired at the company's facility in Shannon, N.C., according to Nathan Runkle, MFA's executive director.

The company said in a statement it was taking the allegations seriously. In addition to working with authorities, Butterball said it was performing its own internal and third-party audits. Through a press release, Butterball officials stated they fully supported efforts being made on the part of officials. "Butterball has a zero tolerance policy for any mistreatment of our birds or the failure to immediately report mistreatment of our birds by any associates," the company said. "Employees found in violation of Butterball's animal welfare policies will be subject to immediate termination."

Commenting on the raid Animal Agriculture Alliance noted, "Farm operators should implement animal care policies, carefully screen potential employees, and hold all workers accountable for their actions. And the public should demand equal accountability from animal rights groups who hire activists to do "undercover" investigations yet fail to report alleged abuse to proper authorities at the time it occurs. Their irresponsible actions undermine established protocols to protect both the animals, employees, and food safety."

The impact of these undercover videos should not be underestimated. FOX News reported that Carolina Waterfowl Rescue would be assisting with some of the sick and injured turkeys from the Butterball Turkey raid. The CWR website says they have no information on the case and interested parties should contact the sheriff. However, the incident prompted CWR to post the following message. "If you want to help animals like the ones you see on the videos consider a local humane meat grower or go vegetarian. CWR is a rehabilitation facility for animals and is not an animal rights group. We do not officially support either choice but after seeing the videos on the internet we feel compelled to make the suggestion."

At a recent animal rights conference, Mercy For Animals Executive Director Nathan Runkle stated, "the lifeblood of Mercy For Animals is our undercover investigations of animal agriculture". These investigations are not made with the goal of improving animal well-being. They are conducted to fundraise while attempting to run farmers and ranchers out of business with bad press and legislation.

Sources: Pork Network/Pork Magazine January 6, 2012; Animal Agriculture Alliance Press Release December 30, 2011; FOX Charlotte; Carolina Waterfowl Rescue website.

Groups Urge Congress to Reject UEP-HSUS Egg Deal

Several farm organizations have signed a letter to the chairman and ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee calling for the rejection of additional, costly and unnecessary animal rights mandates proposed by the Humane Society of the United States. A bill is being prepared by Oregon Representative Kurt Schrader that would set federal standards for the welfare of egg-laying hens. The standards would allow for larger, enriched-colony cages and phase out smaller cages over 15 to 18 years at what the United Egg Producers has estimated to be a cost of 4-billion dollars. Opposing groups have estimated the cost to be 10-billion dollars. The letter was signed by the Egg Farmers of America, American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, American Sheep Industry Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council and National Turkey Federation.

Sources: *AgInfo.net*; *Brownfield Ag News*

Opponents of "PUPS" Bill Most Active this Week

The Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety (PUPS) Act (H.R. 835), introduced by Representative Jim Gerlach, provoked the most messages to Congress in the first week of 2012 on POPVOX. From December 31-January 6, over 1,400 people sent a message to their Congressperson regarding the PUPS bill, 80% opposed 20% supported. To date organizations opposed to the PUPS Act include: the Alabama Canine Coalition, Inc., American Herding Breed Association, Bull Terrier Club of America, California Federation of Dog Clubs, California Responsible Pet Owners' Coalition, Federation of Maine Dog Clubs, Inc., Minnesota Cat and Dog Council, Mississippi Canine Coalition, Inc., Missouri Federation of Animal Owners, Inc., Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA), and United States Working Dog Foundation.

For over a decade the Humane Society of The United States (HSUS) and other anti-animal use groups have introduced federal legislation to restrict breeding of dogs at the retail level. Their proposed legislation would amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) with strict regulations on retail breeders.

PUPS changes the scope and intent of the AWA by covering private breeders, sellers and retail venues with federal regulation for the first time. PUPS adds new problematic definitions to the existing AWA and sets conditions with which many cannot comply as AWA engineered standards are not compatible with most residential home breeder settings. PUPS sets a dangerous federal regulation precedent by mandating specific exercise requirements exceeding those currently required for laboratory animals. Without precedent, PUPS invades the privacy of American homes and sets questionable standards for pet care, sanitation, handling, exercise, and housing.

OPPOSITION QUOTES

"PUPS" epitomizes the grave danger imposed upon a society when animal rights activists and legislators attempt to regulate a highly complex specialty which they do not understand." *United States Working Dog Foundation*

"The overall effect is to make dog and cat breeding so onerous and/or expensive that many will simply give up in despair." *California Responsible Pet Owners' Coalition*

To read opposition statements and write your Congressman visit: www.popvox.com. You can also write your Congressman via their websites to oppose PUPS: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

Critics Question Spending by Humane Society of the United States

By: [Conn Carroll](#) | 01/09/12 8:05 PM

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What did I do wrong?" "Why did they hurt me?" "Why did they abandon me?" These are the questions that flash on your television screen over pictures of injured and abandoned cats and dogs.

Anybody with an ounce of compassion wants to help these poor animals. Then comes the pitch: "For just \$19 a month, you can join the Humane Society of the United States in our fight to eliminate animal abuse everywhere."

But where does that \$19 a month go? Does it go to protecting the cats and dogs pictured in the television ads? Nope. According their most recent tax return, less than 1 percent of the Humane Society of the United States' annual budget actually goes to local pet shelters.

But most Americans do not know this. According to a recent Opinion Research Corp. poll, 71 percent of Americans believe that the HSUS is an umbrella organization for local Humane Society pet shelters nationwide. It's not. And the HSUS profits greatly from this confusion. In 2010, the organization posted \$148.7 million in revenue, revenue its leaders aren't willing to give up without a fight. Just ask Didi Culp, the human educator for Frederick County, Md., Animal Control.

Culp was director of education at HSUS for three years before leaving the organization because she wanted to offer more services to local shelters without charging them anything.

So she joined the Humane Society for Shelter Pets, a nonprofit that educates Americans on the need to directly support local pet shelters, not advocacy groups like the HSUS. Culp also helped produce a video for HSSP, some of which used images of the Frederick County Animal Control, encouraging Americans to donate locally. She then posted the video online. HSUS did not appreciate the competition.

Not only did HSUS demand that the video be taken down (it has been) but its officials have also supported an ethics complaint against Culp with Frederick County.

The HSUS claims that Culp illegally "misused county property by exploiting her access to Frederick County Animal Control to promote HSSP."

Contacted for comment, John Balzar HSUS Senior Vice President of Communications said, "We spent \$97 million helping animals, the people behind HSSP spent zero."

Curiously, HSUS marketers see no ethical problems when they photograph animals at shelters. Remember all those photos HSUS used in their fund-raising television spot? Many of them were shot at county animal shelters just like Frederick's.

Culp is hardly the only one in the animal shelter community who does not appreciate HSUS' intentional brand confusion. According to a Center for Consumer Freedom poll of 400 animal shelter professionals nationwide, 71 percent believe that HSUS misleads people into thinking it is associated with local animal shelters and 84 percent believe that HSUS fundraising makes it harder for local shelters to raise their own money.

So if the HSUS isn't giving money to protect pets in local shelters, where is that money going? Well for starters, HSUS CEO Wayne Pacelle's total compensation package was over \$275,000 in 2010. Another 28 HSUS employees made over \$100,000.

Then there is the lobbying. Between 2005 and 2009, HSUS spent \$17.3 million lobbying governments and sponsoring ballot initiatives attacking the livestock industry and promoting veganism.

Now veganism is a perfectly acceptable lifestyle choice. I even have some favorite vegetarian restaurants of my own. But governments shouldn't be telling people what to eat and nonprofits shouldn't be funding anti-meat regulatory campaigns with money that donors believe is going to protect pets.

Charity Watch, a nonprofit charity watchdog organization, gave HSUS a 'D' rating since it spends almost half of its budget on fundraising.

For her part, Culp has some simple advice for those who want to help animals like those in HSUS ads: "Donate locally if you can, but if not, you can donate time or adopt a pet."

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<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2012/01/conn-carroll-critics-question-humane-societys-peta-funding/2077821>

Veterinary Health Products Market to Reach \$28 Billion by 2017

NEW YORK, NY--(Marketwire - Jan 3, 2012) - TriMarkPublications.com cites in its newly published "Veterinary Health Markets" report that the global veterinary health products market is forecasted to spike to over \$28 billion by 2017. Veterinary health products can be categorized into three main modalities: veterinary pharmaceuticals, biologicals and medicated feed additives (MFAs). 63% of the \$21.1 billion veterinary health market in 2011 is accounted for by pharmaceuticals (\$13.3 billion), 25% by biologicals (\$5.27 billion) and 12% by medicinal feed additives (\$2.5 billion). Food animal healthcare comprised \$12.45 billion of the total 2011 market; companion animal healthcare comprised \$8.64 billion.

The "Veterinary Health Markets" report covers:

- Common diseases in cattle, pigs, poultry, dogs, cats and horses
- Veterinary Non-Steroid Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)
- Antibiotics
- Veterinary Antifungal Drugs
- Veterinary Anthelmintics (Parasiticides)
- Veterinary Biologics (Vaccines)
- Veterinary Diagnostics
- Animal Feed Additives

Cumberland County Animal Ordinance Revisions

Cumberland County board continues to work on making changes to the animal control ordinance. Of concern is a change allowing animal control to seize tethered dogs if owners fail to heed the warning that tethering is banned. Another area of concern is the possibility that Commissioners may require veterinarians to collect license fees when they administer vaccines. We will post more as information becomes available.

Joys of Pet Ownership Contest!

NCRAOA announces the first "Joy of Pet Ownership" Contest.

It is up to us, as animal owners, to not only learn all we can about the needs and requirements of the species we choose to keep, but to maintain them in a way that is not detrimental to their well-being. In turn, our lives are richer for the years spent with our pets.



Is your dog an athlete or a working dog and partner? Is your cat an acrobat? Are you mesmerized and calmed after a hard day at work by the fish swimming in your aquarium?

Share the joy of pet ownership with us. To enter the contest send either a video or a still picture/essay to ncraoa@yahoo.com

CONTEST CLOSES April 2, 2012.

VIDEO must be a maximum of 2 minutes in length.

ESSAY must be 500 words or less.

CATEGORIES: Cats, Dogs, Horses, Other

Not restricted to NC residents

PRIZES: First Place Prize for each category of \$150 Gift Certificate from Amazon

Protecting your right to responsibly own and breed animals. Join NCRAOA

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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