

ZOOONOSIS CONTROL

HEALTH SERVICE REGION 11

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

2011



JUNE

RABIES REPORT

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
JANUARY	0	2	1
FEBRUARY	0	3	0
MARCH	2	5	2
APRIL	1	9	1
MAY	2	2	1
JUNE	1	0	3
TOTAL	6	21	8

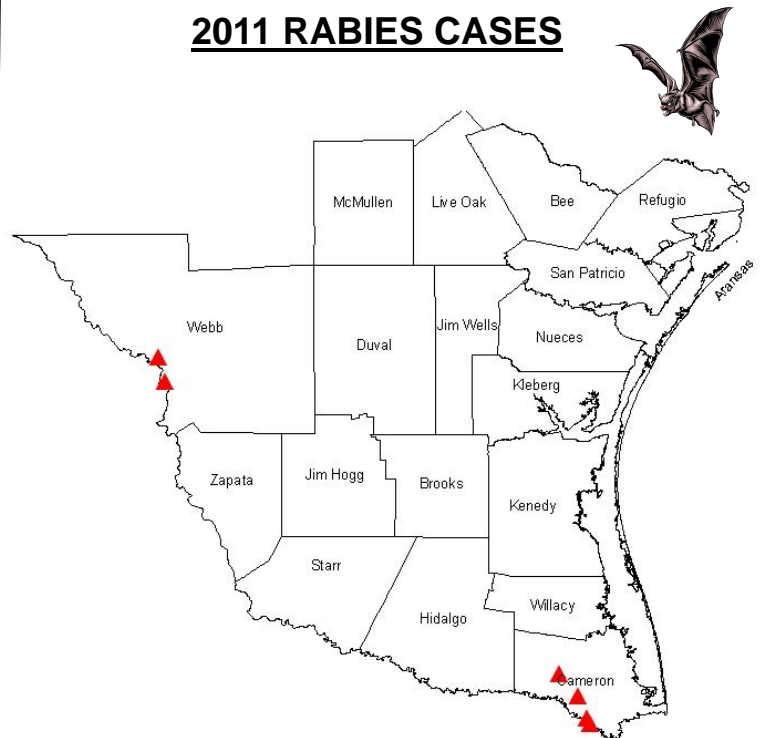
JUNE CASES

<u>CASE#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>
6	6/07/11	Cameron	N. Yellow bat

OTHER RESULTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
6/08/11	Hidalgo	Bat	Decomposed
6/08/11	Webb	Bat	Decomposed
6/13/11	Cameron	Bat	Destroyed
6/23/11	Hidalgo	Bat	Decomposed

2011 RABIES CASES



Cases by Species

▲ Bat - 6

DSHS LABORATORY-CONFIRMED RABID ANIMALS HEALTH SERVICE REGION 11- 2011

COUNTY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
CAMERON				BAT-1	BAT-2	BAT-1	4
WEBB			BAT-2				2
TOTAL	0	0	2	1	2	1	6

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



Hot temperatures are no more comfortable for pets than they are for people. If your pet spends its days outside, be sure you provide a cool, shady spot for it to escape the hot sun and plenty of cool, clean water. When traveling, do not leave your pet in a car for any period of time. More information and pet care tips can be found on the American Veterinary Medical Association website: www.avma.org/careforanimals.

CHAGAS' DISEASE

Chagas' disease is an illness caused by the organism *Trypanosoma cruzi*, which can be transmitted by Triatomids, also known as kissing bugs. These bugs are about 1 inch long and feed on blood from mammals, birds, and reptiles.



A bilingual fact sheet from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is included on pages 3 and 4.

Chagas' disease is primarily known for affecting dogs in Texas. The trypanosome often infects the heart and can cause weakness, decreased activity and sometimes sudden, unexplained death. Veterinarians can test dogs for Chagas' disease through a veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

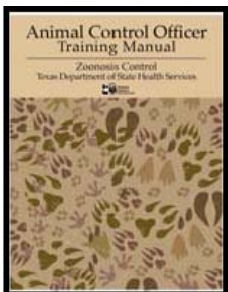
In Texas, the Triatomid bugs can be submitted for identification and testing. You can contact the Regional Zoonosis Control office for instructions. Remember: the bugs and their feces may be contaminated with trypanosomes! Please use gloves or a plastic bag to place them in a container for mailing or to dispose of them. Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

For detailed information about Chagas' disease, see the DSHS website: www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/chagas and the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas.



ACO TRAINING MANUAL

The DSHS *Animal Control Officer (ACO) Training Manual* is available online in the "Officer Training" section at www.texasaco.org or copies are available from the Regional Zoonosis Control office for \$40.



Be sure to download and insert the September 2009 update available on the ACO manual website.

ACO training course students will be tested over the material contained in the DSHS ACO

Training Manual and should study the entire manual thoroughly before attending a course. Please call Letty Tamayo at (956) 444-3212 if you wish to purchase a manual.



TRAVELING WITH FIDO & FLUFFY

Summer is here, and it's time to make plans for that summer vacation. While making travel arrangements, don't forget to make plans for pets as well. If you will not be bringing your pet with you on vacation, be sure to look for a reliable pet-sitter or boarding facility to care for your pet while you are gone.

If you are bringing your pet with you and you are traveling by car, stick to your regular feeding routine, stop every two hours for exercise, and never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle. While driving, make sure cats are confined to a cat cage or carrier and dogs are either in a carrier or attached to a seat belt harness in the back seat. If your dog will be riding in the back of a truck bed, confine it in a kennel that is fastened securely to the truck bed. Remember, pets should never be allowed to ride loose inside a vehicle or ride with their heads outside the car window. This is dangerous for both the driver and the animal and could cause an accident.



If you are traveling by airplane, make sure you check with the airline regarding regulations for pets. Most airlines require an animal health certificate issued within 10 days prior to travel. Depending on the size of the animal, some airlines will allow pets to travel in specially designed carry-on luggage that will fit under the seat. Larger animals may be allowed to ride in kennels in the cargo hold. Also, ask your veterinarian for specific feeding instructions for your pet prior to the flight.

Some important tips to remember when traveling with pets:

- Always make sure your pet is properly identified with a current tag;
- Carry proof of rabies vaccination and a current health certificate when crossing state and international borders;
- Keep a photo of your pet for identification in case your pet is lost;
- Make sure kennels are in good condition to prevent escape, and label the kennel with your contact information; and
- Bring along favorite food, toys, and bedding to make your pet more comfortable.

More information and helpful tips on traveling with your pets can be found on the American Veterinary Medical Association website: www.avma.org/animal_health/travelingwithpet-faq.asp.

Chagas Disease

Fact Sheet

What is Chagas disease?

- A disease that can cause serious heart and stomach illnesses
- A disease spread by contact with an infected triatomine bug also called “kissing bug,” “benchuca,” “vinchuca,” “chinche,” or “barbeiro”

Who can get Chagas disease?

Anyone. However, people have a greater chance if they:

- Have lived in rural countries of Mexico, Central or South America such as: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay or Venezuela
- Have seen the bug, especially in these areas
- Have lived in a house with a thatched roof or with walls that have cracks or crevices

How does someone get Chagas disease?

- Usually from contact with a kissing bug
- After the kissing bug bites, it poops. The germs that cause Chagas disease are in the bug’s feces. People will usually scratch the bite and when this happens, a small amount of the bug’s feces, along with the germs, enter the bloodstream.
- The disease can also be spread from:
 - Mother to baby
 - Blood transfusion
 - Organ transplant
- The disease is not spread through casual person-to-person contact

What are the symptoms?

- A few weeks or months after people first get bitten, they may have mild symptoms like:
 - Fever and body aches
 - Swelling of the eyelid
 - Swelling at the bite mark
- After this first part of the illness, most people have no symptoms and many don’t ever get sick
- But some people (less than half) do get sick later, and they may have:
 - Irregular heart beats that can cause sudden death
 - An enlarged heart that doesn’t pump blood well
 - Problems with digestion and bowel movements
 - An increased chance of having a stroke

What should I do if I think I might have Chagas disease?

- See a healthcare provider, who will examine you
- Your provider may take a sample of your blood for testing

Why should I get tested for Chagas disease?

- Available treatments may work for you
- Chagas disease can be life threatening even though you may not feel sick now
- To know if your unborn baby will be at risk

Many people who have tested positive are leading healthy lives with the help of their healthcare providers.



For more information on Chagas disease, please visit cdc.gov/parasites/chagas and click “General Information” or call 770.488.7775.

For information in Spanish, please contact Su Familia or call the National Hispanic Family Health Helpline at 1.866.783.2645.



Enfermedad de Chagas

Hoja informativa

¿Qué es la enfermedad de Chagas?

- Es una enfermedad que puede causar afecciones graves en el estómago y en el corazón.
- Es una enfermedad que se transmite por el contacto con un insecto triatomino llamado "chinche besucona", "benchuca", "vinchuca", "chinche" o "barbeiro".

¿Quién puede contraer la enfermedad de Chagas?

- Cualquier persona. Sin embargo, las personas que tienen un mayor riesgo son las que:
 - Han vivido en zonas rurales de México o de países en Centroamérica y Sudamérica tales como: Argentina, Belice, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, la Guayana Francesa, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Surinam, Uruguay y Venezuela.
 - Han visto el insecto, especialmente en esas áreas
 - Han vivido en una casa con un techo de paja o con paredes agrietadas o rajadas.

¿Cómo se contrae la enfermedad de Chagas?

- Por lo general mediante el contacto con la chinche besucona o vinchuca
- Después de picar, la vinchuca defeca. Los parásitos que causan la enfermedad de Chagas se encuentran en las heces de la vinchuca. Las personas por lo general se rascan la zona de la picadura y al rascarse, una pequeña cantidad de heces de la vinchuca junto con los parásitos entran al torrente sanguíneo.
- La enfermedad también se puede contagiar a través de:
 - Madre a bebé durante la gestación
 - Transfusión de sangre
 - Trasplante de órganos
- La enfermedad no se transmite mediante el contacto casual de persona a persona

¿Cuáles son los síntomas?

- Después de unas semanas o meses de la picadura, las personas pueden tener síntomas leves como:
 - Fiebre y dolor muscular
 - Hinchazón de los párpados
 - Hinchazón en el área de la picadura
- Después de la primera fase de la enfermedad, la mayoría de las personas no tienen síntomas y muchas ni siquiera se enferman
- Sin embargo, algunas personas (menos de la mitad) se enferman más tarde y presentan:
 - Ritmo cardíaco irregular que puede causar muerte súbita
 - Un corazón dilatado que no bombea bien la sangre
 - Problemas de digestión o defecación
 - Una mayor probabilidad de tener un accidente cerebrovascular

¿Qué debo hacer si creo que tengo la enfermedad de Chagas?

- Vea a un proveedor de atención médica para que lo examine
- Es probable que su proveedor le haga un análisis de sangre

¿Por qué debo hacerme un análisis para ver si tengo la enfermedad de Chagas?

- Para identificar el tratamiento para usted.
- La enfermedad de Chagas puede ser mortal aunque usted no se sienta enfermo ahora.
- Para saber si su bebé en gestación tendrá algún riesgo.

Con la ayuda de los proveedores de atención médica, muchas personas que tuvieron resultados positivos en los análisis llevan ahora una vida saludable.



Para obtener más información sobre la enfermedad de Chagas, visite <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/es> y haga clic en "Información General" o llame al 770.488.7775.

Para más información en español, por favor comuníquese a la línea telefónica de ayuda Su Familia o llame a la línea telefónica sin cargo National Hispanic Family Health Helpline 1.866.783.2645.