

November 19, 2001

disease prevention news

2002 Oral Rabies Vaccination Program: Westward Bound

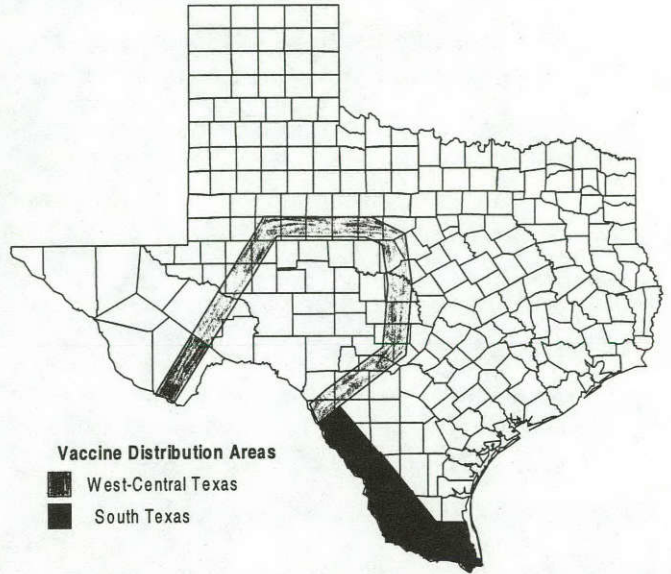
The Texas Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) was initiated 8 years ago. Since then, passive surveillance of rabies positive animals has demonstrated a significant reduction in the number of reported cases in the target areas. Canine variant rabies cases in South Texas have dropped from 142 in 1995 to 1 case during the last 25 months, and gray fox variant rabies cases dropped from 244 in 1995 to 58 cases in 2000.

Changes are in store for the 2002 effort. For the first time a new contractor has been awarded the aerial vaccine distribution. White King Airs from Dynamic Aviation Group, Bridgewater, Virginia, will replace the bright yellow Twin Otters from Canada. Success has allowed Texas to adopt a maintenance posture along the Rio Grande River in the South Texas coyote epizootic zone and tighten the containment line around the gray fox epizootic zone in West-Central Texas. ORVP will be distributing vaccine along the north and western sides of the epizootic zone in West-Central Texas for the first time in 3 years.

Approximately 2.75 million vaccine doses will be dropped during the 2002 ORVP over 34,000 square miles. Texas Department of Health Zoonosis Control Division (TDHZCD) staff have flown the equivalent of 32 times "around the world" since 1995. Since its inception, 17.5 million doses of vaccine have been distributed over 255,500 square miles.

Technological upgrades in bait dispersal equipment have made it possible to carry out the 2002 ORVP effort with half the personnel required in the past. Four airplanes will be used. Resources freed up in this area are needed to support the security and media efforts made necessary by the recent terrorist activities that began September 11. Due to nationwide concern over bioterrorism, media coverage is necessary to alleviate fears residents would naturally have about low flying planes dropping items from the sky.

2002 Oral Rabies Vaccine Distribution



The National Guard will provide security around the ORVP aircraft.



Prepared by Ernest H. Oertli, DVM, PhD
TDH Zoonosis Control Division

For additional information, contact
TDHZCD at 512/458-7255.

Also in this issue

Disease Prevention in the Autumn Woods
Perspectives in Public Health Conference:
Minority Health, An Ethical Imperative

02-432
RECD MAY 22 2002

U of NT Dep. Libraries
76203

Disease Prevention in the Autumn Woods

Many people enjoy engaging in such outdoor activities as hiking, biking, and camping in the cooler weather of a Texas autumn. This is also the season for hunters to be out in the fields and woodlands. Hunters, campers, and hikers need to be reminded that the cooler weather does not eliminate the risk of diseases transmitted by insects and animals in the wild. Health professionals can disseminate these simple precautions to help people prevent diseases they might encounter during their outdoor activities.

Diseases Transmitted by Insects and Animals

Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, human erlichiosis, and tularemia are transmitted by tick bites. Ticks are often found in the very places people like to visit — wooded, brushy and grassy areas — and on animals in these areas.

St. Louis encephalitis, eastern equine encephalitis, and dengue fever are transmitted by mosquito bites. Mosquitoes continue to be a biting nuisance almost year-round in many parts of Texas.

Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by spore-forming bacteria and occurs naturally in animals. Anthrax spores can remain in the soil for many years. Many animals, especially in southern and southwestern Texas, get the disease by swallowing anthrax spores while grazing on contaminated pasture. Although rare, humans can be infected if they handle animals who have anthrax, or handle or eat anthrax-contaminated animal products. Seriously affected animals may stagger, have difficulty breathing, tremble, and finally collapse and die. Symptoms in pigs, dogs and cats may be less severe than in deer and livestock.

Rabies is a deadly viral illness. Usually, people become infected with the rabies virus if they are bitten by an animal that has the disease. But any contact with an infected animal that allows its saliva to touch a break in the person's skin can cause infection. Only a series of shots will keep a person from becoming ill with rabies once they are exposed.

Prevention Guidelines

The Texas Department of Health has developed guidelines to help people protect themselves from disease while they enjoy their outdoor activities.

To prevent insect bites,

- Use insect repellent containing DEET or permethrin (follow directions carefully).
- Stay on trails outdoors and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.
- Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt, and long pants tucked into boots or socks. Wear light-colored clothes so you can easily spot ticks.
- Check your body **carefully** for ticks every few hours. They are small and easy to miss, and will attach to any part of the body from head to toe.

To protect against other disease sources,

- Let cabins and hunting stands air out before cleaning them. Clean them in such a way that you reduce your exposure to dust.
- Wear latex gloves when field dressing animals.
- Never touch a wild animal.
- Avoid contact with any animal that seems sick. If you see a wild animal such as a skunk, raccoon, or bat that is active during the day or any animal that appears sick, fearless, or aggressive—contact area animal control or law enforcement officers.
- Be especially careful not to handle injured or dead animals—including their horns, antlers, or skin—with your bare hands.

If you need assistance, contact a game warden, park employee, or an animal control or law enforcement officer. For more information contact the TDH Zoonosis Control Division at 512/458-7255.

Perspectives in Public Health: Minority Health, An Ethical Imperative Texas Department of Health (TDH) Quarterly CME Conference

On Friday, December 7, 2001, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) will present its Perspectives in Public Health: TDH Quarterly CME Conference. Designed for public health and primary care physicians, the conference will be held at the North Austin Medical Center, in the Decherd Auditorium, 12221 Mopac Expressway N. in Austin, Texas. The program will consist of lectures supplemented by audiovisual slide presentations.

After attending this conference, the participants will be able to

- ♦ prevent, detect at an early stage, treat, control, or take remedial action against specific medical conditions that may adversely affect the health of individuals and populations in Texas;
- ♦ identify policies, processes, and products that promote and protect the health of people and preserve environmental quality; and
- ♦ establish relationships with other physicians concerned with public health and preventive medicine issues through dialogue with presenters and other participants.

Topics covered at the upcoming conference include

- ♦ **Texas Demographics: Diversity & Disparity**
Joe McCormick MD, Assistant Dean, University of Texas School of Public Health, Brownsville, Texas
- ♦ **Perinatal Issues in Minority Populations**
Charles Brown, MD, Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Brackenridge Hospital, Austin, Texas
- ♦ **Health Risk Factors in Minority Teens**
Saundra K. Gilfillan, DO, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas
- ♦ **Cardiovascular Disease/Strokes in Minorities**
George P. Rogers, MD, Chief of Cardiovascular Diseases, Austin Heart Hospital, Austin, Texas
- ♦ **Medical Newsdesk**
W.S. Riggins, Jr., MD, MPH, Director, Public Health Region 8, San Antonio, Texas
- ♦ **Health Disparities: Challenges & Solutions**
Leonel Vela, MD, MPH, Regional Dean, UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas

The Texas Department of Health designates this educational activity for a maximum of 6 hours in Category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for 6 prescribed hours by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The Texas Department of Health is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

For further information and to register, call the TDH Public Health Professional Education Program at 800/252-8239, Press 4, or 512/458-7677. You may pay the registration fee at that time by credit card or send a check with the completed form located on the back page of this issue. Additional conference information is available on the TDH website: www.tdh.state.tx.us/phpep/cme/cmeevents.htm.



Disease Prevention News (ISSN 1068-7920) is a biweekly newsletter published by the Texas Department of Health, Public Health Professional Education, at 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199, (512) 458-7677, FAX (512) 458-7340, email: dpn@tdh.state.tx.us.
 Periodicals Postage Paid at Austin, TX
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Disease Prevention News*, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3199.

The electronic version of *Disease Prevention News*, the subscription form, and a searchable index of issues from 1995 are available at the following website:
www.tdh.state.tx.us/phpep/

Eduardo J. Sanchez, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health
 Charles E. Bell, MD, Executive Deputy Commissioner
 Anita Martinez, Acting Director, Office of Public Health Policy
 Dennis M. Perrotta, PhD, CIC, State Epidemiologist
 Mark V. Gregg, MA, Director, Public Health Professional Education

DPN Staff

Kate Hendricks, MD, MPH&TM, Medical Editor
 Susan Hammack, MEd, Managing Editor
 Linda Darlington, Production Assistant

DPN Editorial Board

Suzanne S. Barth, PhD
 Peter Langlois, PhD
 Susan U. Neill, MBA, PhD
 Sharilyn K. Stanley, MD
 Lucina Suarez, PhD

TDH Publication #59-10940

Disease Prevention News
 Texas Department of Health
 1100 West 49th Street
 Austin, TX 78756-3199

Periodicals Postage
 Paid at Austin, TX


Address Service Requested

✂

4C423-001

Registration Form

Perspectives in Public Health: Minority Health: An Ethical Imperative
Texas Department of Health Quarterly CME Conference
Friday, December 7, 2001 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Registration Fee: \$50 Regular \$25 Residents/Fellows (with verification letter) Please call me regarding special needs 

Name _____ SS # _____ Change of Address Y N

Address _____ Daytime Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

Specialty _____ Discipline MD DO PA Resident RN Other _____

Fax # _____ Internet Address _____

Employment Setting: TDH Local Health Dept. Private Practice Managed Care Other - Specify _____

Method of Payment Visa Mastercard Check (Payable to "TDH 4C423-008")

Name on Card _____ Card # _____

For \$ _____ Expiration Date _____ Cardholder Signature _____

For information and to register, call (800) 252-8239 press 4 or (512) 458-7677.

To pay by check, include payment with this registration form and mail to
 Texas Department of Health 4C423-001, P.O. Box 149200, Austin, Texas 78714-9200

Space Is Limited - Reservations Must Be Received By November 30, 2001

PHPE Use Only	
Amount	_____
Rec'd	_____
CC Posted	_____