

Extreme Chicago Winter Increases Leptospirosis Cases Seen in Local Dogs

(Chicago) Veterinarians at Blum Animal Hospital saw two positive cases of Leptospirosis in vaccinated dogs within the Lakeview area this past month. Leptospirosis is an infectious disease affecting both dogs and humans causing serious liver and kidney damage and even death. The bacteria is carried by rats and raccoons and is spread by direct contact with their urine, most commonly through standing puddles of water. Due to the severe winter Chicago experienced, the spring thaw will lead to both an increased amount of standing water and a potential rodent population explosion- both of which make Chicago a hotbed for Leptospirosis.

Despite vaccinations, two unrelated dogs in the Lakeview area were recently diagnosed with Leptospirosis, causing concern among the veterinarians involved that more cases will follow. Chicago's record snowfall, combined with the emerging rodent population widely recognized by state officials, along with Mayor Rahm Emanuel, create the perfect storm for the pervasive spread of this disease. The Leptospirosis bacteria is most commonly found in Chicago in the urine of rats and raccoons. The bacteria survive in warm, moist environments, such as puddles and small ponds and can be transmitted to dogs when they drink from these compromised water sources. Infected pets pass the disease on to humans through direct or indirect contact with urine and feces. According to Dr. Natalie Marks, DVM, Blum Animal Hospital's veterinarian treating both dogs testing positive for Leptospirosis, "owners need to stay aware and be cautious of all standing water, communal water bowls, koi ponds, dog parks and beaches and off-leash dog care facilities". Although the Leptospirosis vaccine protects dogs from the bacteria, when challenged by environmental conditions, vaccines are not 100% effective. They lessen the chance of infection and lessen the intensity of the disease but owners must be on high alert this season. Dr. Marks recommends vaccinating pets, if not already vaccinated, keeping dogs away from any standing water and immediately picking up feces, which attracts rats and other rodents. [NBC 5 Chicago News Coverage](#)

Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act Advances in Congress

The federal Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act passed out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee yesterday afternoon. According to American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the House Energy and Commerce Committee and Senate Judiciary Committee will come to an agreement so that when the House passes HR 1528, the bill can go directly to the President.

This legislation amends the [Controlled Substances Act \(CSA\)](#) which currently prohibits veterinarians from transporting controlled substances to treat animal patients outside of their registered locations.

[Veterinarians treat multiple species of animals in a variety of settings](#). Unfortunately, the CSA makes it illegal for veterinarians to take and use controlled substances outside of the locations where they are registered, often their clinics or homes.

This means that it is illegal for veterinarians to carry and use vital medications for pain management, anesthesia and euthanasia on farms, in house calls, in veterinary mobile clinics, or ambulatory response situations.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which enforces the law, has informed organized veterinary medicine that without a statutory change, veterinarians are in violation of the CSA and cannot legally provide complete veterinary care. The DEA has already notified veterinarians in some states that they are in violation of the law.

Warning: How Pharmacies Ignore Veterinarians and Endanger Pets' Lives

Many veterinary clinics, by choice or by law, allow their clients to take a prescription to a retail or online pharmacy of their choice. Please be careful when taking advice from your human pharmacist without talking to your pet's veterinarian first.

Trying to be helpful, pharmacists may decide that a drug is too expensive. Uninformed, they may believe that a dosage is too high or too low, and they may change the amount prescribed. [Read entire article...](#)

Illinois Department of Revenue Conducting Audits in Veterinary Practices

During the past several weeks, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) has been conducting tax audits at veterinary clinics in Illinois. Most of the reported audit activity has been reported in Southern Illinois; but it is likely that audits will continue throughout Illinois.

These audits were expected and will test how well veterinary practices are implementing the [veterinary sales tax regulation](#) that was approved in 2007.

This would be a good time for your practice to review your compliance with the veterinary sales tax regulation. The ISVMA has resources available on its homepage (www.isvma.org) that include a copy of the [PowerPoint presentation](#) ISVMA used to illustrate how to implement the new regulation in a series of seminars held in several cities in 2008.

Canine Anti-inflammatory Points Way to 'Superbug' Killer

Compounds similar to anti-inflammatory drugs used by veterinarians to treat dogs may be able to fight the drug-resistant "superbugs" that challenge human health, say Australian researchers.

The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) act on bacteria in a way that is fundamentally different from current antibiotics and stop bacterial DNA from replicating, says Associate Professor Aaron Oakley of the University of Wollongong, who led the research.

Excitingly today his team reports in Chemistry & Biology that some NSAIDs have a weak antibiotic effect against the notorious drug-resistant "golden staph" infection that is a major problem in post-operative care.

Oakley says the "serendipitous" find highlights the importance of a protein called the 'sliding clamp' as a possible target for a whole new class of antibiotics.

It's a vital protein for all bacteria and, when it is disabled, bacteria are unable to replicate or repair their DNA and so can't reproduce, Oakley says.

The clamp acts as a "mobile workstation", tethering molecules that need to interact with the DNA as it replicates. [Read the entire article...](#)

Prospective Veterinarians and CVTs Can Join Now and Get Three Months ISVMA Membership Free!

If you have a colleague that is not an ISVMA member, now is a great time to encourage them to join. By joining now, you will get the remainder of this membership year (April-June) for free and your membership will be good through June 30, 2015!

ISVMA membership continues to grow and we set new membership records every year. We want all veterinarians and CVTs to join 3000 of their colleagues and become an ISVMA member today! Please encourage your colleagues to take a moment and fill out the [online membership application](#) and pay your dues with your VISA or MasterCard.

Do you know about ISVMA's tremendous success lobbying state government on your behalf? Have you seen the new Epitome magazine that is mailed to every DVM and CVT member? Have you participated in ISVMA's high quality, affordable and accessible CE programs? Has your practice saved money through one of our sponsored benefit programs?

Your support and participation are greatly appreciated. If you know a colleague or associate that is not a member of ISVMA, please encourage them to join also! Some of the benefits of membership are listed on the [ISVMA website](#).

About the Photo

The [Sandhill Crane](#) (*Grus canadensis*) is an uncommon migrant in Northern Illinois and a rare migrant in the central and south parts of the state. Most birds seen migrating in Illinois are moving to and from Jasper-Pulaski preserve in Indiana. The Sandhill Crane was formerly a summer resident in Illinois. The last known nest was in Champaign County in 1872. Migration times are mid-March to early May, then early October to early November.

The Sandhill Crane is a species of large crane of North America and extreme northeastern Siberia. The adult is gray overall; during breeding, the plumage is usually much worn and stained, particular in the migratory populations, and looks nearly ochre. The average weight of the larger male is just over 10 pounds, while the average weight of females is 9 pounds. The Sandhill Crane has a red forehead, white cheeks and a long dark pointed bill. Its long dark legs trail behind in flight, and the long neck is kept straight in flight. Immature birds have reddish brown upperparts and gray underparts. The sexes look alike. Size varies among the different subspecies; the average height of these birds is around 2.6 to 3.9 feet.

This crane frequently gives a loud trumpeting call that suggests a French-style "r" rolled in the throat, and they can be heard from a long distance. Mated pairs of cranes engage in "unison calling." The cranes stand close together, calling in a synchronized and complex duet. The female makes two calls for every single call of the male.

The Sandhill Crane's large wingspan, typically 5.4 to 6.9 feet, makes this a very skilled soaring bird similar in style to hawks and eagles. Utilizing thermals to obtain lift, they can stay aloft for many hours, requiring only occasional flapping of their wings and consequently expending little energy. With migratory flocks containing hundreds of birds, they can create clear outlines of the normally invisible rising columns of air (thermals) that they ride.

Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free.

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org.