



Office of the State Veterinarian

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Fall 2017 Newsletter

Office of the State Veterinarian

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FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN

The last few months have been busy at Alaska's Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV)!

Our staff spent much of the last month on the road, visiting fairs across the state doing livestock checks, poultry testing, and public outreach. You might have seen us at the Southeast Alaska State Fair (Haines), Tanana Valley State Fair (Fairbanks), Kenai Peninsula Fair (Ninilchik), Deltana State Fair (Delta Junction), Kodiak Rodeo and State Fair (Kodiak), or the Alaska State Fair (Palmer).

In a crowded, busy place such as a state fair, it is important that all members of the community work together to ensure a safe and disease-free environment for everyone. This is why Dr. Coburn and I visit each fair and work with a team of volunteer veterinarians to inspect livestock entries. It is our job to ensure that all animals are free of diseases and parasites that could potentially infect other animals or humans. We also educate 4-H participants about the importance of biosecurity and how to prevent illness in their livestock as well the transmission of zoonotic diseases to their human family members.

While at the fair, we also perform routine testing of poultry for avian influenza (AI). This is a surveillance measure to determine whether AI is present in Alaska's domestic birds, and if it is, take preventative measures to ensure the infection does not spread to other flocks. In total, we collected swabs from 451 domestic fowl at the fairs. We are very pleased to report that there were no positive results for AI at this year's fairs.

While this is great news, it is still important that as a community we remain vigilant and engage in good biosecurity practices with our birds to prevent AI in the future. This includes sheltering them from interaction with wild birds and reporting large die-offs or ill birds to our office immediately. If you have a bird that becomes ill, or passes away unexpectedly, please contact our office. We can test for AI and perform a necropsy on dead birds to determine cause of death — no cost to you.



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MEET BARBARA HANSON



After earning a biology degree at the University of Oregon, Barb moved to Alaska 28 years ago and has worked as a bench chemist, drinking water microbiologist, and corrosion microbiologist on the North Slope before joining the State of Alaska in May 2000. Barb has previously served as the farm food safety auditor and trainer at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Agriculture and has held various roles in the DEC drinking water, wastewater, and pesticide programs.

Since returning to DEC in 2015, Barb's primary work has been as the State's Dairy Sanitarian. She describes the dairy program as one of the most complex of all the regulatory programs she has worked in. "Luckily, the dairy program staff at FDA and other states are very generous with their help, but being the only dairy inspector in Alaska, it's a big learning curve," she says.

Barb is also instrumental in the rollout of the new Alaska Produce Safety Program. Having taught farm food safety workshops while at DNR, helping to implement this new program at DEC is a natural fit.

FROM THE STATE VETERINARIAN

Continued from P. 1



In addition to inspections and testing, our staff also held informational booths at several of the fairs. We were excited to have a chance to talk with the public about animal health and food safety and to receive input on what issues are important to you.

Thank you to everyone who visited us at the state fairs. It was wonderful to meet so many Alaskans who are as passionate as we are about animal health, disease prevention, and food safety! If you have any questions or concerns or would like additional information about any of our programs, please visit our website or contact us directly. Educating the public is our job, and we are happy to assist in any way we can.

Thank you,
Dr. Bob Gerlach, VMD



WORKSHOPS on PRODUCE GROWERS FOOD SAFETY

The Office of the State Veterinarian is planning **Produce Growers Workshops** in several communities across the state this fall and winter. This Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved course will satisfy the Grower Training curriculum requirements under the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. Funding is provided by a FDA—State of Alaska Cooperative Agreement. Growers can receive an optional certificate of attendance for \$35. The workshops are open to all interested growers.

Two workshops are scheduled for **Thursday, November 2** in **Homer** and **Fairbanks**. The Fairbanks workshop coincides with the Alaska Food Festival and Conference; in Homer, the workshop coincides with the Alaska Farm Bureau Meeting.

Thursday, November 2, 2017

8:00 am — 5:00 pm

UAF Cooperative Extension, Tanana District Office
724 27th Avenue Suites 2 & 3, Fairbanks, AK
sarah.coburn@alaska.gov or (907) 375-8213

Thursday, November 2, 2017

9:00 am — 6:00 pm

Islands & Ocean Visitor Center Seminar Room
95 Sterling Highway, Homer, AK
barbara.hanson@alaska.gov or (907) 375-8278

Be sure to visit the OSV website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/Produce.html> for more information about the Alaska Produce Safety Program and register for our listserve at <http://list.state.ak.us/mailman/listinfo/akstatevetnews> to receive announcements of future workshops.

If you or other growers in your area are interested in having a workshop in your region, please contact us and we will work with you to bring a workshop to you.

FISH TISSUE MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATE

The Fish Tissue Monitoring Program (FTMP) has several ongoing projects in 2017. Through our long-term collaboration with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), we received halibut samples from the Western Aleutian Islands, Unalaska, and the central Gulf of Alaska south of Seward. Over the fall and winter, we will analyze these samples for heavy metal and organic contaminants.

The Alaska Monitoring and Assessment Program (AKMAP) collected fish samples for us from lakes in Southeast Alaska as part of their freshwater assessment for the region. The Canada/US transboundary mining issue has made this region of particular interest for fish contaminants. The FTMP continues to support efforts to establish baseline data and monitor contaminants in fish from river systems that could be affected by mining operations upstream. Next year, AKMAP will collect samples from rivers and streams in the region. We look forward to analyzing those samples.

Other monitoring projects include analyzing samples from a drainage with nearby historical mining sites in Nome, shellfish tissue samples taken in Kotzebue Sound, tissue samples of interior Alaska freshwater fish, and Southcentral Lakes. In addition to analyzing the tissue samples for environmental contaminants, the FTMP is also evaluating fish for some nutritional components that contribute to good health, such as fatty acids and selenium.

Contaminant data is added to our public database as it becomes available. View it on our webpage at <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/FTMP.html> or GIS map <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/FishTissueSampling.html>.



FISH MONITORING PROGRAM SURVEY

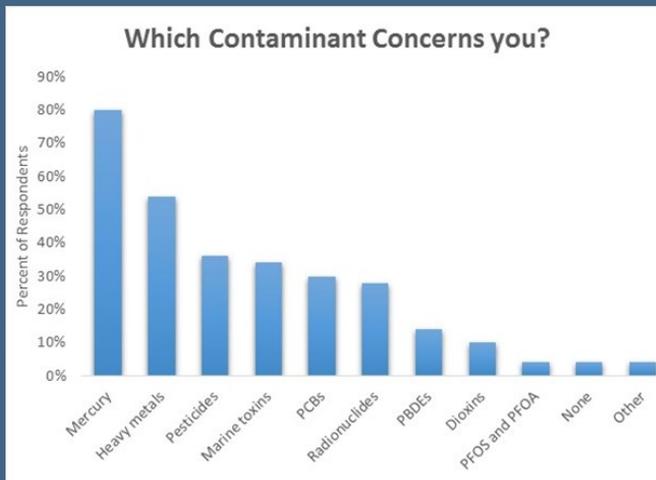
The OSV Fish Monitoring Program is conducting a short survey to learn more about fish caught and eaten in Alaska and whether you have concerns about contaminants in those fish.

You can learn more about the Fish Monitoring Program in future issues of this newsletter or by visiting our website:

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/FMP.html>

Fish Monitoring Program Survey Results

The Fish Tissue Monitoring Program (FTMP) conducted an informal survey (see right sidebar) over 10 months and received 50 responses. Respondents were mostly sport fishermen and subsistence users from Alaska. They ate fish frequently with 84% consuming fish at least once a week. The results showed that 86% of people surveyed are concerned about contaminants in the fish and shellfish they eat. Mercury is on most people's minds when they consume Alaskan fish. Other heavy metals, radioisotopes (Fukushima, etc.), and some organic contaminants, such as pesticides, are also of concern to some people. While Alaskans enjoy a wide range of fish and shellfish, some of the fish most commonly consumed in urban areas include halibut, salmon, shrimp and bivalves. Consumption in rural communities was more dependent on what is available in their particular region. **The survey will continue, so please visit our webpage (see right sidebar) to participate.** The FTMP will continue to monitor these contaminants in Alaska's fishery resources to address these concerns.



To take the survey, choose the appropriate link below or visit the OSV website.

Sport or Subsistence Fishermen and Members of the Public:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T3TS7X8>

Members of the Seafood Industry (Catching, Processing, Selling, Managing, etc.)
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MYRMHFB>





FDA Releases Guidance Document for Industry

FDA has created a *Small Entity Compliance Guideline* to assist small growers in complying with the FDA Produce Safety Rule.

The document is meant to be a “plain English” guideline to assist growers in understanding the requirements of the rule.

It can be downloaded at:

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm574281.htm>

PRODUCE SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE



It was a busy summer for Alaska’s Produce Safety Program! In June, we hosted visiting staff from the western and southern regions of FDA’s Produce Safety Network (PSN). Regional specialists from the PSN are providing technical assistance to states for the rollout of the new FDA Produce Safety Rule regulations. During the visit, we arranged meetings with both local growers and representatives of the Alaska Farm Bureau and traveled to farms in Bethel and the Mat-Su Valley. This orientation provided the Regional Specialists some insight to the unique challenges and growing conditions in Alaska, as well as the great opportunities and potential of this state.

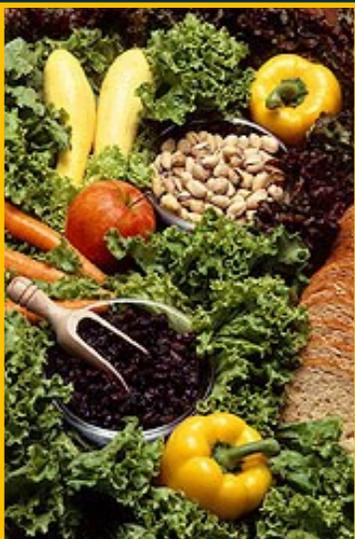
Our staff also provided information on the Produce Safety Program, as well as other OSV programs, at the Alaska state fairs in Haines, Delta Junction, Kenai, Palmer, Kodiak, and Fairbanks.



Extension Proposed for Agricultural Water Requirements

On September 13, 2017, FDA announced a proposed rule that, if finalized, would extend the compliance dates for the agricultural water requirements of the FDA Produce Safety Rule. This proposed extension would give the agency time to reassess the water standards to ensure they are feasible, as well as protective of public health. Under the proposed change, large covered farms would have until January 2022 to be in compliance with the water standards, while small and very small covered farms would have until January 2023 and 2024, respectively. Compliance dates for all other provisions of the Produce Safety Rule remain unchanged, with large farms required to be in compliance by January 26, 2018. The proposed rule is open for public comment for 60 days. For more information or to submit a public comment, visit:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/13/2017-19434/standards-for-the-growing-harvesting-packing-and-holding-of-produce-for-human-consumption-extension?utm>





INFORMATION FOR ALASKA VETERINARIANS: CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION

Most animals being exported from Alaska need a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) issued by an accredited veterinarian.

It is important for accredited veterinarians to check the receiving state's requirements prior to issuing a CVI, as each state has different import requirements for different species. It is the responsibility of the accredited veterinarian to ensure that vaccines are given within required time frames, the required statements and test results are included on the certificate, and that the CVI is submitted promptly.

Accredited vets are required to submit copies of health certificates they issue to the appropriate animal health officials in both the issuing state and the receiving state. Fortunately, it is now possible to save on postage and simply scan and e-mail the CVI directly to each State Veterinarian. We recommend that one e-mail be sent to both offices at the same time, ensuring that the issuing vet has a digital record that the submission was made and reducing the need for paper copies. This electronic system will also help ensure the records are submitted in a timely manner, as requested by the USDA and animal health officials at the state level.

Email addresses for animal health officials from each state can be found on our website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/docs/vet/state-animal-health-officials-20170615.pdf>.

Accredited vets in Alaska can also create an electronic CVI (eCVI) online at <http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/EH/ATS/index.html>.

The eCVI system is especially convenient because it will allow you to send the CVI directly to the OSV once it is created — no printing, scanning, or emailing is required. The eCVI and electronic import permit system is still relatively new. As you become familiar with these tools, we welcome your comments and suggestions to help make our system more user friendly.

Keep in mind that if animals will be transported through Canada, additional requirements may apply. For more information, please see the "USDA Corner" feature in this newsletter regarding international pet travel or contact Alaska's Federal Veterinarians, Dr. Rosemarie Lombardi and Dr. Mark Miller, at alaska.import.export@aphis.usda.gov.

If you require any help navigating our permit or eCVI systems or have questions about exporting animals, please contact the OSV for assistance!

VISIT US IN FAIRBANKS!

**Alaska Food Policy Council
Food Festival
and Conference**

The Alaska Food Policy Council's Food Festival and Conference is November 3 and 4 in Fairbanks.

Staff from the Office of the State Veterinarian as well as DEC's Food Safety and Sanitation Program will be presenting information on their food safety programs in a talk at the conference on Friday and hosting an information and outreach booth at the festival on Saturday.

[https://
www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/2017-conference/](https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/2017-conference/)





**PRESENTATION FROM
DR. MAGGIE
HIGHLAND,
USDA AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH STATION**

In late August, the UAF Veterinary School organized a meeting with Dr. Maggie Highland, a researcher at the USDA Agricultural Research Station in Pullman, Washington, to discuss the interaction between livestock and wildlife. This is a topic of great interest in Alaska as the Board of Game continues to consider proposals to remove sheep and goats from the "clean list," due to concerns about the threat of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*Movi*) causing morbidity and mortality in the Alaska Dall sheep population (see article to right). Alaska State Veterinarian Dr. Bob Gerlach traveled to Fairbanks to participate in the event, and speak about the *Movi* study that is currently underway. Dr. Highland was also able to visit Anchorage and Palmer to meet with the OSV, the Alaska Farm Bureau, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

STUDY OF *MYCOPLASMA OVIPNEUMONIAE* IN ALASKA'S DOMESTIC SHEEP AND GOATS

In the Summer 2017 issue of this newsletter, the OSV described the initiation of a pilot study to determine the prevalence and distribution of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*Movi*) in domestic sheep and goats in Alaska. The study is now underway and is seeking farmers to volunteer to participate.

Anyone who owns sheep or goats in Alaska is encouraged to participate in the *Movi* study. There is no charge for running the diagnostic tests. All farm information is coded and will remain confidential, known only to the owner and the veterinarian they select to take the samples. The Alaska Farm Bureau has committed to reimbursing members up to \$200 for the first visit from the veterinarian sample collector, and up to \$100 for the second and third visits.

The samples collected from each animal consist of blood (from animals older than six months), ocular swabs, and nasal swabs. Two follow-up collections occur for nasal swabs. A percentage of each herd will have duplicate samples collected.

Check out our new website about the study at <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/Movi.html>.

Here, you will find more information about the ongoing Alaska *Movi* study, including the owner survey form, instructions for collecting samples, the study checklist, and the forms for requesting reimbursement for veterinary services from the Alaska Farm Bureau.

If you are interested in participating, contact the OSV, your local veterinarian, or Amy Seitz at the Alaska Farm Bureau (907.252.5064 or amy.seitz@gmail.com). If you have any questions, contact our office, the Farm Bureau, or other sheep and goat owners who may have participated. The information may be helpful to you as you develop an animal health plan for your farm.

"Prop 90" is now "Prop 64"

At their Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2016, the Board of Game deferred action on what was then known as Proposal 90, or "Prop 90." In the new 2017-2018 Proposal Book, Prop 90 is reintroduced as Proposal 64, or "Prop 64." The text of the proposal remains the same, and recommends eliminating domestic sheep and goats from the 'clean list' at 5 AAC 92.029. The proposal would also require permits for possession of domestic sheep and goats if located within 15 air miles of wild sheep habitat, with stipulations for fencing and disease free certification.

Prop 64, put forward by the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation, will be addressed at the upcoming **Statewide Regulations meeting taking place November 10 – 17 in Anchorage**. The Board of Game invites you to share your written comments by email, fax, or mail:

Email: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Fax: (907) 465-6094

Mail: ADF&G Boards Support, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK, 99811-5526

Written comments are due by Friday, October 27, 2017, in order to be included in the information available to the Board and the public prior to the meeting. Opportunities for public testimony will also be provided at the meeting, although advanced registration may be required. See http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard_main or call the ADF&G Boards Support main office at (907) 465-4110 for additional information.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE HERD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a prion disease that affects captive and wild cervids including deer, elk, reindeer, and moose. CWD can be transmitted by direct contact with an affected animal or indirect contact with infected bodily fluids and tissues or contaminated soil or equipment. It is known to survive for long periods of time in the environment. Affected animals may display symptoms including weight loss (wasting) and depression, as well as neurological symptoms including lack of coordination, tremors, and listlessness. The disease progresses slowly, so infected animals may appear healthy for years before showing symptoms. There are no treatments or vaccines for CWD, and once an animal develops symptoms, the disease will be fatal.

Preliminary results of studies published earlier this year in Canada found for the first time that CWD could be transmitted to primates. The CDC released a statement that, to date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people. However, animal studies show that CWD poses a risk to non-human primates, like monkeys, that eat meat from CWD-infected animals or come in contact with brain or body fluids from infected deer or elk. These studies raise concerns that there may also be a risk to people, but it is important to know that there have been no known instances of humans contracting CWD. Public health officials want hunters to realize that the new study demonstrates that there is some risk to consuming meat from an infected animal. If CWD has been identified in the area, hunters should have the animal tested and not eat meat from any positive animal.

CWD has been reported in at least 21 states in the U.S., as well as two provinces in Canada. To date, no infected animals have been identified in Alaska. Stringent import regulations protect Alaska's domestic and wild deer. In order to ensure our state remains CWD-free, it is important that Alaska's reindeer and elk farmers participate in a voluntary surveillance program. This program will help prevent the spread of disease by quickly identifying affected animals. Both State and Federal law requires that any cervid transported across state lines originate from a herd that has achieved "Certified" status through enrollment in a USDA-approved CWD Herd Certification Program (HCP) for a minimum of five years. Alaska's HCP is USDA-approved. Even if you are not currently planning to export your captive reindeer or elk, enrollment in this program will provide the flexibility to transport your animals out of state in the future.

Becoming involved in the HCP is easy, and we are available to help every step of the way! The program requires producers to comply with three primary components:

◆ Identification

Each animal must have two forms of identification; one must be an official ID (tags can be obtained for free through the OSV).

◆ Inventory

Farmers must maintain an inventory of all animals on the farm including birthdates, ID tag numbers, date and cause of death, and CWD test results.

◆ Sampling

Samples must be submitted to the OSV for CWD testing of all on-farm mortalities, animals sent to slaughter, or animals harvested on the farm. There is no charge to the owner for testing.

References and additional information:

USDA APHIS: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sa_alternate_livestock/sa_cervid_health/sa_cwd/ct_cwd_index

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/index.html>

Fact Sheet: http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/chronic_wasting_disease.pdf



VISIT US IN HOMER!

Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting is November 3 and 4 in Homer.

Staff from the Office of the State Veterinarian will be presenting information on the FDA Produce Safety Rule as well as an update on the *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* study in domestic sheep and goats in a talk at the conference on Friday. We will also be hosting an information and outreach booth at the event.

<https://www.alaskafb.org/events/alaska-farm-bureau-friday-forum-awards-banquet-annual-meeting/>



ANIMAL IMPORT REGULATIONS

Alaska Regulations
Updated March 2017

The State of Alaska's updated Animal Import Regulations are in effect!

Some requirements have been eliminated and others have changed to be consistent with federal law. Please take a moment to review the new regulations and ensure the animals you are importing will be in compliance.

Please visit our website for helpful fact sheets about importation requirements, a link to the regulations, and to obtain an import permit online via the Animal Tracking System.

Animal Health Regulations
(18 AAC 36)

Amended as of March 24, 2017:
<http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/regulations/pdfs/18-aac-36.pdf>

Animal Tracking System:
<https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/EH/ATS/index.html>



USDA CORNER

Navigating Pet Travel? Let APHIS Help.

Reprinted from the USDA APHIS's Blog:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2017/06/28/navigating-pet-travel-let-aphis-help>

When planning an international trip, we often want to bring the whole family – including our [pets](#). Did you know taking Fido or Fluffy can be a complex, multistep process that requires advance planning and preparation? To help make this process go smoothly, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has a few simple steps to follow – and a [comprehensive website](#) to walk you through the process.

First. **Advance preparation is key.** Each country has different animal health requirements that travelers must meet so it's important to start the process early. Our website covers the requirements for more than 130 countries. Check the [APHIS Pet Travel Website](#) for your destination country's entry requirements.

Second. **You will need a health certificate.** Almost all countries require a USDA-accredited veterinarian to issue (complete, sign, and date) an international health certificate within a certain number of days prior to your departure to confirm the health of your pet. So, as soon as you know where you will be traveling with your pet, contact a local [USDA accredited veterinarian](#) to assist you with the process. With 68,000 private, accredited veterinarians nationwide, it's likely your vet might be one or can refer you to one. Accredited veterinarians work cooperatively with APHIS to protect U.S. animal health and can certify that your pet is healthy and able to travel.

Third. **Getting the health certificate endorsed.** After the health certificate is issued by a USDA accredited veterinarian, it will typically need to be endorsed (signed and "stamped") by your local [APHIS office](#). This can be done by mail or, in some cases, in person. [APHIS Service Centers](#) are set up to process your health certificate as quickly as possible — but keep in mind, we process many certificates each year so be sure to leave plenty of time for us to complete this process. Endorsement fees for pet health certificates start at \$38, but will cost more if the destination country requires Federal review of test results. Check the [APHIS website here](#) for additional information on endorsement fees.

Lastly, don't forget to check with your airline carrier to see if they have additional requirements to transport your pet. Make sure you know how to collect your pet at the port of entry upon arrival in your destination country. It's also important to remember that various U.S. agencies regulate the entry of your pet back into the United States. Plan ahead and check those requirements [on the website](#) before you go.

We know navigating various country requirements for international pet travel can be challenging, and that's why we're here to help. If you have any questions about the process at any step along the way, please contact APHIS at 844-820-2234 or your local [APHIS Service Center](#) for more information.

For more information visit the USDA APHIS Pet Travel Website (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel>) or contact the Alaska's USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (Mark.A.Miller@aphis.usda.gov or Rosemarie.T.Lombardi@aphis.usda.gov if you are unable to reach Dr. Miller).



UPDATE: SALMONELLA OUTBREAKS LINKED TO POULTRY IN BACKYARD FLOCKS

In our last [newsletter](#), we included an article about a multi-state outbreak of *Salmonella* linked to backyard flocks of poultry. Since that time, the number of reported illnesses has continued to grow.

The number of separate outbreaks has now risen to 10, with 961 people in 48 states and the District of Columbia impacted. At this time, 215 people have been hospitalized, and one individual has died. 74% of those who became ill reported contact with live poultry in the week before the illness began. Alaska is one of two states yet to be impacted by these outbreaks. We encourage those with backyard flocks to continue engaging in appropriate biosecurity practices to help prevent outbreaks of *Salmonella* and other diseases in our state.

Public health officials and the OSV both recommend the following steps to ensure your family is protected from any of the harmful bacteria that poultry may carry, such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*:

- ◆ Thoroughly wash your hands after handling poultry or working in the chicken coop or yard. If you were handling live poultry, be aware that your clothes and shoes may be contaminated.
- ◆ Children younger than five years, adults older than 65 years, and people with weakened immune systems should not handle or touch live poultry. These individuals may be more susceptible to *Salmonella* infection and should take extra precautions to avoid illness.
- ◆ Do not snuggle or kiss the birds, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around live poultry.
- ◆ Live poultry should be kept outside. Do not bring them into the house, especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored.
- ◆ Keep the pens clean and make sure you wash any equipment used to care for poultry outside, such as cages, feed, or water containers. Use a separate pair of shoes or boots for taking care of poultry and keep them outside the house.

It is important to remember that although poultry may appear healthy, they can still be carriers of *Salmonella* and other zoonotic pathogens, so the precautions described above are still warranted.

If you would like to have your flock screened for *Salmonella* or have questions about how to keep your family and backyard flock safe and healthy, please visit our website or give us a call.

Original Sources:

CDC Outbreak Advisory (August 21, 2017): <https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/live-poultry-06-17/index.html>

CDC Information on *Salmonella* and Backyard Flocks: <https://www.cdc.gov/features/salmonellapoultry/index.html>



Multistate Outbreak of Human *Campylobacter* Infections Linked to Pet Store Puppies

CDC Outbreak Advisory (excerpted included below):

<https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/outbreaks/puppies-9-17/index.html>

The Ohio Department of Health, several other states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and USDA-APHIS are investigating a multistate outbreak of human *Campylobacter* infections linked to puppies sold through Petland.

As of October 3, a total of 55 people with laboratory-confirmed infections or symptoms consistent with *Campylobacter* infection who live in 12 states (Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) have been linked to this outbreak. Ill people range in age from <1 year to 86 years, with a median age of 23 years; 38 (69%) are female; and 13 (24%) report being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

Continued on P. 11

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Remember to Plan for Pet and Livestock Safety



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

General

US Government:

<https://www.ready.gov/>

Alaska:

<https://www.ready.alaska.gov/>

<http://www.uaf.edu/ces/hhfd/emergency/>

Pets and Service Animals

USDA APHIS:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/sa_ep/links-pet-disasters

ASPCA:

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness>

Humane Society:

[http://](http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html)

www.humanesociety.org/issues/animal_rescue/tips/pets-disaster.html

Livestock

USDA APHIS:

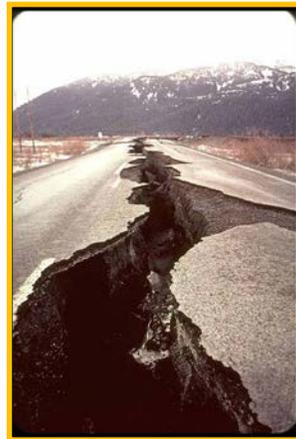
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/emergency-management/protecting-livestock>

With the recent devastation brought on by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, plus the wildfires in California, emergency preparedness is on everyone's mind. While hurricanes are unlikely to occur in Alaska, earthquakes, wildfires, tsunamis, and man-made disasters are all possibilities for which we should be prepared.



Emergency planning is an ongoing process aimed at anticipating potential natural or man-made disaster events and trying to have

systems in place to respond for the protection of human, animal, and environmental health. This includes fostering partnerships with other government and non-governmental organizations, and providing training, equipment, and supplies to allow for a swift and effective response. Although federal and state partners have their own emergency plans, the most immediate and effective response can often be from the local community and government. In addition, planning at a local government level, done by the people who know the particular challenges and assets of that community, can be more finely tuned to that community's needs.



This local response is especially critical in Alaska due to the state's large geographic size and the remoteness of its communities. Each community has unique needs related to the infrastructure and resources available. The OSV collaborates with local municipalities, state, and federal partners for state-wide emergency planning purposes, and is available for consultation to local organizations, such as animal shelters and local governments, as they develop their own plans. During an actual event, the OSV would assist in coordinating delivery of supplies and other resources, monitoring animal health and welfare issues, and acting as a liaison with national animal health and veterinary organizations to ensure that domestic animals, as well as humans, will be cared for.

In an emergency, the local and federal government will use whatever resources are available to provide shelter for you and your pets, but **YOU** as an animal owner must also be prepared for emergencies on an individual level as well. When creating an emergency plan for your family, don't forget to include your pet! Preparing your pet for an emergency is probably not as difficult as you think. Some of the most important things that you can do to ensure the safety of your pet during a disaster event are things that are helpful for basic preparedness and animal husbandry as well.



Continued on P.11

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

Remember to Plan for Pet and Livestock Safety

Continued from P.10

◆ Plan

Determine how and where you will evacuate, if necessary. Identify pet-friendly lodging in nearby areas, and/or friends and family who could take in your animals. In the event you are unable to reach your animals in an emergency, designate a neighbor who could help you evacuate or care for them in your absence.

◆ Containment and Restraint

Pets are always safest when they are securely contained either in your home, a fenced area, or on a lead. A loose animal frightened by severe weather or unusual activity may bolt and be difficult to catch. If possible, bring your pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Be sure your animal is used to being restrained (on a leash, halter, or lead) so it can be moved and handled easily.

◆ Crate Training

Crating your pet can be helpful in the event they become injured, need to be restrained, or must travel (e.g. by plane, train, ferry, vehicle, or trailer). In the event of a natural disaster or evacuation, a crate or travel carrier will provide a safe way to transport a stressed animal, reducing the risk of trauma or interaction with other pets, and may be required in co-sheltering situations where pets and humans are housed together. Larger animals can be prepared for evacuation by ensuring they are comfortable being loaded into and traveling in a trailer.

◆ Socializing

A well-socialized animal is more easily treated by a vet in case of injury or illness and will be more comfortable greeting visitors in your home and the community. An animal accustomed to being handled by a variety of people will also be better able to cope if placed in a co-housing situation or if they become separated from their owner and must be cared for by strangers.

◆ Identification — CRITICAL

Ensure your pet (even livestock!) is wearing some form of identification. Consider having your vet implant a microchip. Microchips are permanent, cannot be lost, and can be scanned at most animal shelters or vet clinics. Data show that microchipped pets have a better chance of being reunited with their owner, regardless of the situation.

◆ Current Vaccinations

Vaccinations are important for protecting your pet from disease under normal circumstances, but an unvaccinated pet is especially vulnerable to illness in a high-concentration animal housing situation, such as those they may encounter in an emergency shelter. Additionally, proof of vaccinations, particularly rabies, may be required in co-housing situation, so it is important to have these records available in your emergency supply kit.

◆ Emergency Supply Kit

When preparing your own emergency supply kit, don't forget your pets. In addition to the basics (plenty of extra food, water, and medications) consider also including photos (for identification/proof of ownership), medical records, a pet first aid kit, food and water bowls, a collar/harness/halter, lead, bed, toys, and waste disposal/cleaning supplies for your pet, too.



Multistate Outbreak of Human *Campylobacter* Infections Linked to Pet Store Puppies

Continued from P. 9

Epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicates that puppies sold through Petland stores are a likely source of this outbreak.

Campylobacter can spread through contact with dog feces. It usually does not spread from one person to another, however, activities such as changing an infected person's diapers or sexual contact with an infected person can lead to infection.

Regardless of where they are from, any puppies or dogs may carry *Campylobacter* germs. Illness prevention tips for pet owners, pet store workers, clinicians, and veterinarians can be found at the bottom of the CDC advisory.

The OSV recommends that veterinarians inform clients with new puppies or dogs about the risks of acquiring *Campylobacter* and other zoonotic diseases from pets, as well as educate pet owners on how to clean up after their animals and properly dispose of animal waste.



WE'VE GONE GREEN!

In an effort to conserve our natural resources and reduce waste, printed hard copies of our newsletter will be provided *by request only*.

If you would like a printed copy for your office or organization, please let us know and we will be happy to mail one to you!

Otherwise, please enjoy (and share!) our newsletter electronically by subscribing to our listserve, or visiting our website.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Prop 64 Comments Due (see page 6 for details)	dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov	October 27, 2017
Produce Growers Food Safety Workshop	Fairbanks, AK	November 2, 2017
Produce Growers Food Safety Workshop	Homer, AK	November 2, 2017
Alaska Food Policy Council Festival and Conference	Fairbanks, AK	November 3—4, 2017
Alaska Farm Bureau Annual Meeting	Homer, AK	November 3—4, 2017
Board of Game Meeting	Anchorage, AK	November 10—17, 2017

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