July 29, 2016

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1. In Memorium

NWRA extends sincere condolences to the family and friends in the death of Les Stocker, founder of Great Britain’s St. Tiggywinkles wildlife hospital. Les started St. Tiggywinkles in 1978 with his wife Sue and their son Colin, and worked to make wildlife rehabilitation recognized as a profession overseas and to provide the best possible care for wild animals received. Additional information: [http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/14626393.Wildlife_hospital_founder_dies_aged_73/](http://www.oxfordtimes.co.uk/news/14626393.Wildlife_hospital_founder_dies_aged_73/)

NWRA also extends sympathy to family and friends in the June 2016 death of Rosemary Collett, formerly of Florida and North Carolina.

2. Time Running Out to Participate in Rabies Survey

Thank you to everyone who already has responded to the research survey on human pre-exposure rabies vaccination and serological monitoring! If you have not completed the survey yet, there is still time and your participation will be appreciated. July 31st is the final date for participation, so go to the link and assist with this research project. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVAX-NWRA](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVAX-NWRA)
3. Birds Learn Calls while in the Egg

Research indicates some members of the Australian fairy-wren family (*Malurus* sp.) sing softly to their eggs while brooding them and the young hatch able to mimic these calls. [Source](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/baby-birds-learn-calls-from-their-mothers-while-still-in-the-egg/?utm_source=Cornell%20Lab%20eNews&utm_campaign=b800c90c02-Cornell%20Lab%20eNews%202006_13_2016&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-b800c90c02-302684357)

4. Algae Growth Causing Manatee Deaths in FL

In addition to area fish kills, the heavy and unrelated algae blooms along the eastern Florida coastline, St. Lucie River, and Indian River Lagoon may have killed eight manatees since May 2016. Since 2012, when algae blooms destroyed sea grass that is the primary manatee food, 150 manatees have died in Brevard County. Environmental officials are trying to remove the thick algae mats and may try a mechanical method to strain the algae from the St. Lucie River. [Source](http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/43771/20160714/8-manatee-deaths-plagues-florida.htm)

5. US Fish & Wildlife

In 2014, the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and several New Mexico counties filed a lawsuit asking the court to reverse USFWS listing of the lesser prairie-chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) under the endangered species act. The court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and USFWS was forced to delist the bird. However, the Service is reevaluating the bird’s status and seeking additional scientific input on the bird’s status within its range and threats the population faces. [Source](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=u.s.-fish-and-wildlife-service-removes-lesser-prairie-chicken-from-list-o&_ID=35741)

6. Zoonotic Disease

**Plague**

Two cats died from direct contact with ground squirrels in Elmore County, Idaho. The infected squirrels are southeast of Boise and in the area of Mountain Home. [Source](http://www.idahostatesman.com/news/local/article83020837.html)

As of 13 June 2016, New Mexico has confirmed 10 cases of plague and 219 cases of tularemia in dogs and cats in multiple counties. [Source](http://www.abqjournal.com/791345/tularemia-plague-in-pets-higher-than-average.html)

A 16-year-old boy was hospitalized with plague in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico, on 17 June and on 19 June a 77-year-old man from Bernalillo County was diagnosed with plague. [Source](https://nmhealth.org/news/disease/2016/6/?view=437) and [Source](http://krqe.com/2016/07/19/health-officials-confirm-case-of-plague-in-bernalillo-county-man/)
**Hantavirus**

In July, North Dakota Department of Health recorded hantavirus pulmonary syndrome infection in a child, which is a rare but potentially fatal form of the disease. The incident occurred in the northeastern part of the state but the county was not provided.


**Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

A child in Cass County, Michigan has been diagnosed with tick-borne Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF, *Rickettsia rickettsii*), the first confirmed case in MI since 2009. The American dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), which is the most common tick in MI, carries RMSF. Other tick species in different parts of the US also can transmit RMSF.


**New Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiae Found in Georgia**

During 2012-2014 in an area southwest of Atlanta, Georgia, five cases of *Rickettsia parkeri* rickettsiosis infection were reported in humans. This pathogen is transmitted by the Gulf Coast tick (*Amblyomma maculatum*), with human symptoms including a necrotic, scabbed lesion at the bite site, fever, headache, malaise, and a rash. Since 2004 when the disease was first identified, 39 cases have been documented, mostly in the southeastern USA. The range of the Gulf Coast tick has increased over the years and now includes most states in the southeast. In Georgia alone from 2002 through 2014, 335 cases of spotted fever group illness was reported. Some of these illnesses may have been *Rickettsia parkeri* and not subsequently identified.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6528a3.htm?s_cid=mm6528a3_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6528a3.htm?s_cid=mm6528a3_w)

**Rabies**

Listed below are recent confirmed cases of rabies in the US and Canada showing location and species involved with links to further information.


**Alabama**—raccoon [http://www.wtvy.com/content/news/10th-Case-of-Houston-County-Rabies-386966631.html](http://www.wtvy.com/content/news/10th-Case-of-Houston-County-Rabies-386966631.html)


7. Canine Parvovirus

An increase in parvovirus in dogs is occurring in New Mexico and Alaska. Wildlife species of the same family (Canidae, wolves, foxes, jackals, dingoes, etc.) also are susceptible to parvovirus if they have direct contact with ill domestic pets or the infected pet’s fecal material.
http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/life/sunlife/2016/06/10/dr-beth-parvovirus-puppy-killer/85570282/ and
http://www.thearcticsounder.com/article/1623canine_parvovirus_suspected_in_unalaska_dog

8. Tick Disease Expansion

The American Veterinary Medical Association reports that expanded ranges for tick species that transmit Lyme disease (*Borrelia*) may increase other diseases. Other diseases in pets and humans include heartworm, *Ehrlichia* spp., and *Anaplasma* spp.
https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/160701h.aspx

National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association
2625 Clearwater Rd, Suite 110
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-230-9920 Phone
320-230-3077 FAX

NWRA@NWRAWildlife.org