

Region 8 Zoonosis Control Newsletter



Public Health Region 8 | Zoonosis Control
Texas Department of State Health Services
dshs.texas.gov/region8/zoonosis | Region8.Zoonosis@dshs.texas.gov

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Autumn Wishes

By Amanda Kieffer

Anthrax and monkeypox and rabies, oh my! It’s been a busy summer for Region 8, but autumn days are here again and we can finally get a break from the summer blast. In this month’s newsletter, we present the rabies update and talk about rabies vaccination requirements for pet travel. We also have an article on monkeypox for those who want to learn more about this curious outbreak. We are looking to update our LRCA rosters, so please be sure to check out the LRCA article on page 6! And it wouldn’t be an autumn update without a refresher on Halloween animal health hazards! Wishing you all a crisp and enjoyable Fall season.

Zoonosis News

Welcome Rachel Panneton!

This July, the Region 8 Zoonosis Team welcomed our new staff member, Rachel Panneton. Rachel grew up in Pampa, a small town in the Panhandle of Texas. She graduated from Texas A&M University in 2017 with a degree in Health and a concentration in Community Health. She later obtained her Master of Public Health from the Texas A&M School of Public Health in 2019. Rachel enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, doing home improvement projects, and spending time with her husband, Bradley, and their pups; Dexter and Ebbie.

Please join us in welcoming Rachel to the Region 8 Zoo Crew!

World Rabies Day

World Rabies Day is celebrated September 28th each year. This year, Dr. Kieffer went to Medina ISD for rabies education outreach. If you or your community would like us to provide resources or education opportunities, please contact us!



Dr. Kieffer presenting at Medina ISD for World Rabies Day 2022



Rabies Update

By: Jon Stewart

Annual Rabies Update: January – September 2022

Between January and June of 2022, bats made up 62.5% of all positive rabies reports, followed by skunks (8%), raccoons (8%), foxes (8%), cats (8%), and one horse (4%).

2022 Rabies Cases in Animals, Region 8 January 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

	Cat	Bat	Dog	Equine	Skunk	Raccoon	Fox	All
Atascosa					1			1
Bandera								0
Bexar		9						9
Calhoun								0
Comal		3				1	1	5
Dewitt								0
Dimmit								0
Edwards	1							1
Frio								0
Gillespie	1							1
Goliad								0
Gonzales					1			1
Guadalupe		1						1
Jackson								0
Karnes				1				1
Kendall		1						1
Kerr							1	1
Kinney								0
La Salle								0
Lavaca								0
Maverick								0
Medina								0
Real								0
Victoria		1						1
Uvalde						1		1
Val Verde								0
Wilson								0
Zavala								0
TOTALS	2	15	0	1	2	2	2	24





Pet Travel to Texas

By: Jon Stewart

Bringing your dog or cat to Texas?

Each dog and cat 12 weeks of age or older to be transported into Texas for any purpose must be vaccinated against rabies. The time elapsed since the most recent vaccination must not exceed the manufacturer recommendations for the vaccine. If an initial vaccination was administered less than 30 days prior to arrival, the owner must confine the dog or cat for the balance of the 30 days.

Additionally, documentation must be provided by a vaccination certificate showing the date of vaccination, vaccine used, revaccination due date, identification information for the vaccinated animal, contact information of the animal's custodian, and signature, signature stamp, or computerized signature and contact information of the veterinarian responsible for administration of the vaccine.

If the dog or cat is less than 12 weeks of age, the custodian should confine the animal until 30 days after its initial vaccination.

Animals arriving from other countries and are less than 12 weeks of age, shall be confined at home until 30 days after the animal's initial vaccination is administered. Regardless of the animal's age, if the initial vaccination was given less than 30 days prior to arrival, the animal must be confined for the balance of the 30 days.

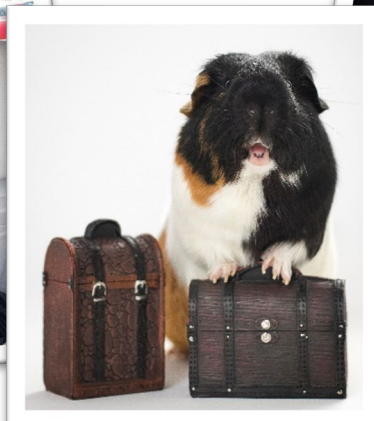
Do I need a health certificate for my pet?

Health certificates are not required by Texas law. However, most airlines require a health certificate issued by a veterinarian within seven to ten days prior to travel. Check with your airline for their exact requirements.

Notice

On July 14, 2021, there was a [temporary suspension](#) which prohibited the entry of dogs into the United States arriving from the countries determined by CDC to be high-risk countries for rabies.

This temporary suspension been extended until January 2023.



Monkeypox

By: Amanda Kieffer

Monkeypox is a rare but serious illness that can affect both humans and animals. Before 2022, Monkeypox virus outbreaks in humans occurred when people came into contact with infected animals, most commonly prairie dogs and other small mammals. However, the most recent monkeypox cases in the United States are caused by human-to-human contact.

Because the Monkeypox virus is spread through close contact, it is possible that people who are infected can spread the virus to animals. Recently there was a single [report](#) of transmission of Monkeypox virus from a human to a pet dog.

People with monkeypox should avoid contact with animals, including pets and wildlife. The Monkeypox virus can be found in the scabs, crusts, or fluids of the rash caused by monkeypox, and in infected bodily fluids, secretions, urine, and/or feces. For this reason, when people are sick, they should avoid close contact with their pets including petting, cuddling, hugging, kissing, licking, sharing sleeping areas, and sharing food.

If you have clients concerned about monkeypox infections in a pet, here a few points to keep in mind:

- The risk for animals in the United States to get monkeypox is low.
- While it is now known dogs can be infected with monkeypox virus, it is unknown if they are able to give monkeypox to humans or to other animals.
- Many other illnesses can cause rashes or other illness in pets. If a pet is sick, they should contact a veterinarian.
- If a pet was around a person sick with monkeypox and there is a concern the pet may become sick, they can keep the pet isolated for at least 21 days. People who are immunocompromised, pregnant, have a history of atopic dermatitis or eczema, or young children should not care for the exposed animal.
- It is not necessary to surrender or euthanize a pet if they were exposed
- Do not wipe or bathe pets with any kind of chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or other products, such as hand sanitizer, counter-cleaning wipes, or other industrial or surface cleaners.

If you or a client suspect a pet has monkeypox, they should contact their veterinarian and/or the health department. Public health staff can help determine if the pet meets testing criteria and assist with sample collection requirements.

~More on Next Page~

Monkeypox (*cont.*)

Public Health Contact Emails

CDC: Poxvirus Inquiry Line
(404) 639-4129
poxvirus@cdc.gov

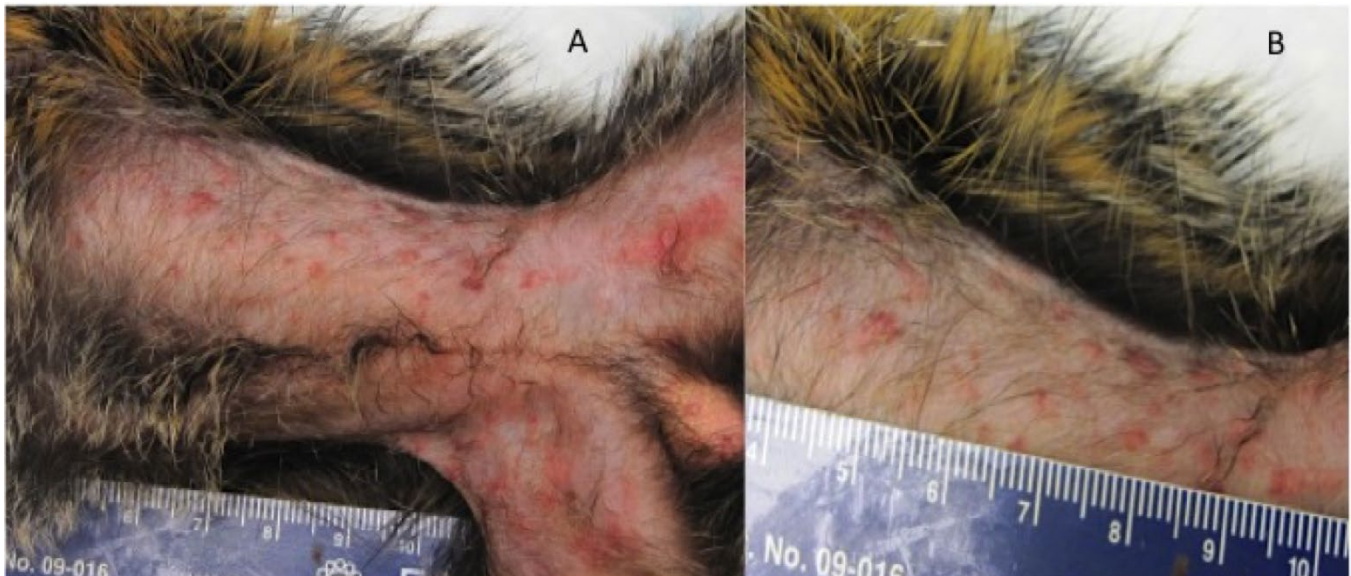
DSHS

EAIDUMonitoring@dshs.texas.gov
the.vet@dshs.texas.gov

Possible Signs of Monkeypox in Animals

- New onset of rash (pimple or blister-like)
- Fever
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Coughing
- Nasal or eye secretions/crust
- Bloating

Smallpox Rash in a Marmoset



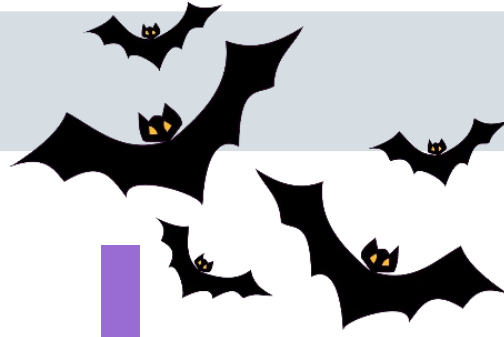
Mucker EM, Wollen-Roberts SE, Kimmel A, Shamblin J, Sampey D, Hooper JW (2018) Intranasal monkeypox marmoset model: Prophylactic antibody treatment provides benefit against severe monkeypox virus disease. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis* 12(6): e0006581. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pntd.0006581>

For More Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/prevention/pets-in-homes.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/veterinarian/>



LRCA (Local Rabies Control Authority)

By: Rachel Panneton

The Rabies Control Act, [Chapter 826](#) of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requires each County and municipality to designate a **Local Rabies Control Authority (LRCA)**.

Who is your LRCA?

It could be your county health officer, municipal health officer, animal control officer, peace officer, or any entity that your governing body considers appropriate.

What the LRCA does?

The LRCA enforces the laws and rules pertaining to rabies control, any rules established by the local municipality or County, statewide rabies quarantine rules, and requirements for animal rabies testing.

All animal bites and other potential rabies exposures to a human **must** be reported to the LRCA, who in turn must investigate these potential exposures and suspected rabid animals.

The LRCA makes sure any high-risk animal that may have exposed someone to rabies is sent to the state laboratory for rabies testing. If a domestic dog, cat, or ferret is responsible for the bite or other potential exposure, then the LRCA must ensure that the animal is captured and either properly quarantined for the required amount of time or euthanized and tested for rabies.

The LRCA determines whether home confinement is allowed for dogs, cats, or ferrets when certain conditions are met, and may also require that an animal that has inflicted multiple bite wounds be tested immediately. ***The LRCA has the final word regarding the disposition of a biting animal.***

For More Information:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/IDCU/health/zoonosis/laws/Rules.aspx>
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/rabies.aspx>

Find out who your LRCA is and make sure that all animal bites and other potential rabies exposures are reported to this person.

If no one has been appointed, talk to your local officials about finding someone who can do the job.

Keep us up to date on who your LRCA is:

Please let us know who your current LRCA is, *especially if it has changed*, for your County or municipality.

In the future, if your LRCA changes please let us know!

You can do this by emailing the LRCAs name and contact information to the Region 8 Zoonosis Control email: Region8.Zoonosis@dshs.texas.gov





Halloween Animal Health Hazards

Modified by: Rachel Panneton

With Halloween around the corner, there are risks and health hazards for animals, particularly pets like dogs and cats. **To avoid any unfortunate mishaps, take a look at the following tips:**

Make sure your pet is wearing a collar with an identification tag

With strangers in costumes ringing the doorbell and all the loud/unfamiliar noises, pets can become nervous, and they might escape. Be sure that your pet is wearing a collar with an identification tag on it for easy tracing. Another good tracking device is an identification microchip. To prevent an escape, keep pets confined in a part of the house separate from any Halloween activities.

Keep your pets/animals in a comfortable, safe, secure location

Animals can become the unfortunate targets of malevolent acts, so be sure to keep them in comfortable, safe, secured locations. Cats tend to be more at risk, so keep them inside. Black cats (due to the folklore associating them with bad luck, witchcraft, and Halloween), calicos, and tortoiseshells (due to their Halloween colors) may have more of a chance of being targeted.

If walking around at night, use reflective collars, tags, leashes, or a leash with flashing lights

With busier streets and sidewalks, an extra precaution if you walk your dog at night is to add reflective collars and tags or a leash with flashing lights to increase your and your pet's visibility. *It's not advised to take pets along for trick-or-treating. If you do, the pet should be trained and kept on a leash under the control of an adult.

Things to keep away from your pets:

Candy, especially chocolate, and any other treats that contain xylitol^{1,2}

It is common knowledge that chocolate, especially dark or baking chocolate, can be dangerous for our pets, but do not forget about xylitol! Xylitol is among a group of sugar substitutes classified as sugar alcohols (somewhat a misnomer as they are not alcoholic); it might be found in some "sugar-free," "reduced-sugar," or "diet" foods such as gum, candy, baked goods, ice cream, and peanut butter. **Look for the term "xylitol" or the general term "sugar alcohol" on food labels when checking for ingredients.**

Glowing/Glow in the dark Jewelry³

Jewelry that glows in the dark can attract cats to play with it, but it contains the chemical dibutyl phthalate. When ingested it may cause heavy salivation and agitation due to its bitter taste.

If your pet/animal has ingested something possibly toxic:

If you know or suspect that an animal has ingested anything that could possibly produce toxicity, **immediately consult a veterinarian, animal emergency clinic, or poison control center.**

- **Texas Poison Center Network:** 1-800-222-1222
- **ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center:** 1-800-548-2423

Special thanks to Pamela Wilson for putting this information together!

For More Information:

Pamala Wilson's full article: <https://www.texvetpets.org/article/halloween-hazards/> or <https://blog.allpetsmedical.com/halloween-holiday-health-hazards-for-animals/>

¹Food and Drug Administration. Paws off xylitol; it's dangerous for dogs: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/paws-xylitol-its-dangerous-dogs>

²Mayo Clinic Staff. Artificial sweeteners and other sugar substitutes: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/in-depth/artificial-sweeteners/art-20046936>

³Rosendale ME. Glow jewelry (dibutyl phthalate) ingestion in cats: <https://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-poison-control/unpalatable-lure-glow-jewelry>



Announcements

DSHS Austin Lab Renovations

The DSHS Austin lab will be undergoing renovations from October 28th to November 24th. Submitters can continue to submit to the DSHS Austin Lab, but can expect some differences in result reporting.

If you have questions on emergency testing or timelines, please contact us.

More information and updates regarding the lab renovation can be found at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/lab/Lab-Renovation/2022-Laboratory-Renovation/>



Future CE Course Topics

If you have any suggestions or requests for future CE Course topics, please let us know by emailing us at:

Region8.Zoonosis@dshs.texas.gov

For More ACO CE Course Information:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/>

ACO Manual Online

The ACO Training Manual is available for **free** on the DSHS website. Updates to the manual are posted and represented by dates in parenthesis beside each chapter.

[ACO Manual Online](#)

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7430 Louis Pasteur Drive

San Antonio, TX 78229

210-949-2000 (Main Office)

210-692-1457 (Fax)

210-949-2121 (24/7 Reporting Line)



TEXAS
Health and Human
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Texas Department of State
Health Services

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