The CFSPH’s day long session at AVMA entitled *Protecting Animal Agriculture: Expand Your Differentials and Increase Your Biosecurity* was a success! It was great to see so many of you there and at the CFSPH booth in the exhibit hall. At our session, we were fortunate to have Colonel John Hoffman from the Department of Homeland Security talk about our nation’s efforts to protect agriculture. Dr. Steve Sorden, ISU Veterinary Pathologist then presented differentials for a variety of clinical presentations, including endemic diseases and foreign animal diseases. The goal was to help bring some of those “zebra’s” back onto the differential list when presented with livestock diseases. Each disease presentation was followed with Biological Risk Management prevention information by Drs. Alex Ramirez and Danelle Bickett-Weddle. Many of the diseases discussed were zoonotic and we must not forget this aspect in our practices. To address this continued need, Dr. Glenda Dvorak and the CFSPH team have been busy developing new Zoonotic Disease Awareness and Prevention materials for you to use…read more about it later in this newsletter. If you missed the AVMA training opportunity, we are doing a similar session at AABP in September…see Upcoming Events for more details.

**IN THE NEWS**

**UNIDENTIFIED DISEASE KILLING FARMERS IN CHINA**

There have been news releases in the popular press and on Pro-Med about an undiagnosed illness that has killed nine farmers and 11 others are ill in a rural part of China’s western Sichuan province. The illness apparently occurred between June 24 and July 21, 2005 in about 15 villages 945 miles southwest of Beijing. All of the farmers had recently slaughtered sick pigs or sheep. The initial concern was a form of avian influenza but that has been ruled out, unofficially. Clinically, the farmers present with flu-like symptoms in the early stages of the disease, and then later, suffer bleeding under the skin, shock and other symptoms. There is suspicion that this outbreak may be due to Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF), known locally as Xinjiang hemorrhagic fever, which is endemic in livestock in southern portions of China. Ten to 20% of sheep, goats, and cattle in Sichuan are seropositive. Another possibility is hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) associated with Hantavirus infection. State media said researchers have found no evidence the disease has been transmitted from person to person, noting that none of the farmers were related or had contact with each other. For more information, stay tuned to the International Society for Infectious Disease (ISID) [www.isid.org](http://www.isid.org) where you can view the latest info on Pro-Med-mail. For more info about CCHF, visit the WHO website for a fact sheet at [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs208/en/index.htm](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs208/en/index.htm) Also, CFSPH has a fact sheet about Hantavirus at [https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/hantavirus.pdf](https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/hantavirus.pdf)

**SOMETHING NEW FROM CFSPH…ZOONOTIC DISEASE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MATERIALS!**

Twenty new technical fact sheets on important, endemic, zoonotic diseases have been developed and are free to download at [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo)

**COMING AUGUST 2005…**

*Fast Facts* which are condensed versions (1-2 pages) of the technical disease fact sheets. These awareness education materials are designed for the general public and provide a general overview of the disease. They can be used by practitioners to provide information to clients and staff on zoonotic diseases or to educate youth involved in 4-H or FFA programs. To accompany the ‘Fast Facts’ are short 6-8 slide PowerPoint slides on these zoonotic diseases. These presentations are accompanied by speaker notes written at a general public level, to allow extension specialists or 4-H leaders to provide basic awareness information on the diseases to youth or other general public audiences. The general audience zoonotic awareness and prevention materials will be at [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Zoonosis](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Zoonosis).

Select Zoonotic Agents Wall Chart (18”x27”) lists the human and animal clinical signs for the ‘new’ zoonotic disease agents addressed by the technical and ‘Fast Facts’. It complements the zoonotic agents already displayed on the ‘Bioterrorism Agent with Livestock Pathogens wall chart’. The wall charts will be sold individually for $6 each or can be customized for larger orders (500 or more). Orders can be placed by emailing us at [cfsph@iastate.edu](mailto:cfsph@iastate.edu).

For more information on these products, see our website at [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Programs/awareness.htm](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Programs/awareness.htm)
Dr. LeMac Morris, adjunct instructor at CFSPH, conducted a survey in May 2005, as part of his practicum requirement, to determine which activities performed by veterinarians resulted in the greatest incidence of animal bite injuries. These activities were then compared to the activities most likely to cause animal bite injuries in the general public.

- 163 surveys emailed, 29 included in study
- 146 bites/1000 veterinarians over 3 year period, primarily small animal doctors
  - 322 biting incidents/1000 veterinarians (some were bitten multiple times)
  - Public bite incident rate: 18 bites/1000
- Most bites occurred on the hand
- Most occurred during physical exam in exam room
- Restraint of animal did not affect being bit; same percent bitten with restraint as without
- Dogs: 50% of all bites, Cats: 32%, Horses: 11%

Veterinarians were also more likely to be bitten by small dogs which showed some signs of aggression rather than large dogs. It made no difference whether the veterinarian had seen the animal before or whether the animals were totally unfamiliar. Gender of the animal did not provide a predicting factor for biting events in the surveyed veterinarians. In the overall population, however, large breed, intact male dogs are more likely to bite, and in most instances, the animal is either the family pet or the neighbor’s pet.

The study did not produce results that were statistically significant, but it did highlight some interesting points that warrant further study. From the information gathered, it appears that the greater the number of dogs and cats to which a veterinarian is exposed, the greater the risk of an animal bite injury. To avoid injuries, veterinarians should take precautions while working with small, aggressive animals in the exam rooms and should consider moving them to a different environment where the animals can be better restrained.

I want to thank all of the people who participated in the survey. I appreciated your responses and notes of encouragement. Thanks again. LeMac’ Morris, DVM.

VETERINARIANS SURVEYED HAD A HIGH RATE OF ANIMAL BITE INJURIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

AABP (American Association of Bovine Practitioners) Pre-Conference Seminar, September 21, 2005, Salt Lake City, UT

This pre-conference seminar will focus on Biological Risk Management for Beef and Dairy Operations. Bovine practitioners will spend the day learning a systems-based approach for diagnosing ruminant diseases and look at specific prevention methods based on a route of transmission approach. The online BRM database will be demonstrated and attendees will learn how to incorporate it into their practice services. All materials will be provided; cost is $90 for this pre-conference seminar at the AABP Annual Meeting. Stay tuned to our website and www.AABP.org for more information.

www.cfsph.iastate.edu