PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS FOR VETERINARIANS

Public Health News for Veterinarians *is a collaborative publication distributed by Local Departments of Health in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester Counties to inform and update veterinarians about public health and zoonotic diseases.*

In This Issue:

Reducing the Risk of Diversion of Prescription Opioids - pgs 1-2

Zika - pg 2

HV Animal Response Teams - pg 3

Vector-borne Disease Statistics - pgs 4-5

Local Contact Information - pg 6

Animal Disease Reporting Requirements - pg 6

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Reducing the Risk of Diversion of Prescription Opioids:

NYS Controlled Substance Reporting and Disposal Requirements for Veterinarians

Heroin overdose rates have increased throughout the US, including within the Hudson Valley. The majority of heroin users report having started opioid use with prescription medications.[1] While the majority of opioid prescriptions are written by primary care physicians and surgeons,[2] human diversion of veterinary medications is an unfortunate possibility.

The NYS Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), a division of the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), sets regulations relating to professional use of controlled substances. While veterinary practitioners are exempt from the majority of these regulations, proper reporting of controlled substance dispensing is mandated, as well as proper disposal of such substances. Veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians are also required to complete at least 2 credit hours of continuing education on controlled substances during each triennial registration period (www.nysed.gov).

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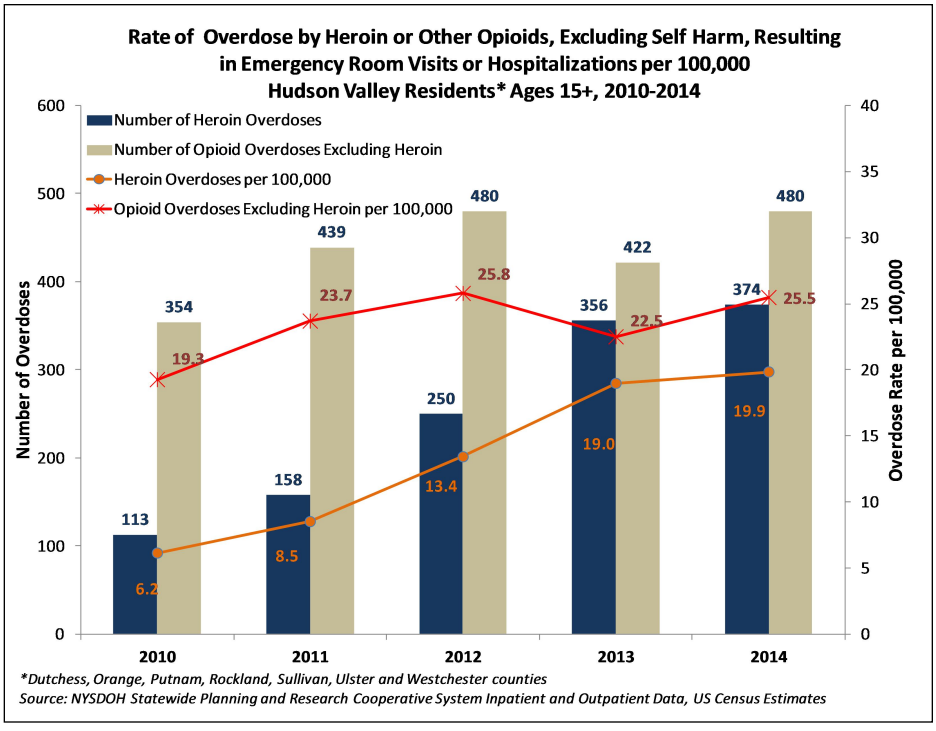

[1] Muhuri, PK., Gfroerer, JC., Davies, C. Associations of nonmedical pain reliever use and initiation of heroin use in the United States. SAMHSA CBHSQ Data Review, 2013.

[2] Levy, B., Paulozzi, L., Mack, K., Jones, C. 2015. Trends in Opioid Analgesic–Prescribing Rates by Speciality, U.S., 2007-2012. American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 49(3):409-413.

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Prescribing and Reporting Requirements:

- Veterinarians are exempt from the electronic prescribing requirement; however handwritten prescriptions must include all information required by the BNE.
  http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/
- Veterinarians do not need to consult I-Stop for owner/client information before writing animal prescriptions.
- Veterinarians are required to report any controlled substance dispensing activity to the BNE within 24 hours. Reporting is done through the online NYSDOH Health Commerce System.
- Veterinarians that are 'dispensing practitioners' are required to file a zero report indicating that no controlled substances were dispensed during the relevant period of time—either 14 days from last submission of report for dispensing activity, or 14 days from submission of last zero report.
- Veterinarians ceasing to act as 'dispensing practitioners' must continue to submit zero reports, unless granted a waiver from the State of New York.
- Controlled substances administered by a veterinarian do not need to be reported to the BNE. This includes administration outside the clinical setting, for example in a client's home.
- Controlled substance prescriptions written by a veterinarian, but filled at a pharmacy do not need to be reported to the BNE. For additional information, see I-STOP FAQ for Veterinarians: https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/electronic_data_transmission/docs/veterinarians_faq.pdf

Inventory and Disposal Requirements:

- Veterinarians must maintain biennial inventories of all schedules of controlled substances. Inventories should include separate entries for each kind of substance listing name of the controlled substance; quantity and content of the substance and the size of the individual package; the number of packages and the total content of all packages covered by the entry as of the date of the inventory. The inventory must be available for inspection for at least 5 years.
- DEA-registered veterinarians may dispose of expired or unwanted controlled substances by returning them to the manufacturer or distributor from which they were obtained or through a NYSDOH-licensed reverse distributor. A list of licensed reverse distributors is available at http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/narcotic/licensing_and_certification/docs/reverse_distributor.pdf
- In the rare event that neither the manufacturer nor a reverse distributer will accept the substance, approval for destruction of controlled substances may be obtained from the BNE, following state requirements.
- Veterinarians should not accept unwanted controlled substances from clients for the purpose of disposal. Clients wanting to dispose of controlled substances should contact their local health department for information on how to dispose of unwanted drugs through approved means (disposal via medication drop boxes or through formal take-back events)
- For more information, visit NYS Veterinary Medical Society's disposal and destruction of controlled substances' website at https://nysvms.site-ym.com/?csdisposal.

ZIKA VIRUS:

The ongoing Zika virus epidemic in the Western Hemisphere is a source of concern for Hudson Valley residents, and is generating questions for area health departments and healthcare providers. Veterinarians may also receive questions. Clients may be referred to the NYS Zika Hotline: (888) 364-4723.

In the spirit of One Health, we encourage veterinarians to stay informed on this developing health concern. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regularly updates its website with current information on Zika virus: www.cdc.gov/zika

At this time, animals do not appear to be playing a role in the spread of the virus, nor is there any evidence Zika can be spread to people from contact with animals. More information can be found at:

http://www.cdc.gov/zika/transmission/qa-animals.html

Hudson Valley County Animal Response Teams

In 2006, the federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation (PETS) Act was passed in order to address deficits in plans for care of pets during disasters that were brought to light by Hurricane Katrina. Lack of consideration of animals in disasters creates not only animal welfare concerns, but also potential public health issues related to the refusal of residents to evacuate without pets, environmental contamination caused by animal carcasses, and safety issues created by loose animals. The PETS Act directs FEMA to ensure state and local emergency plans address the needs of pets and service animals. In New York, the Empire State Animal Response Team (ESART) was created to promote and support the creation of County Animal Response Teams (CARTs). CARTs are groups consisting of community volunteers that work in collaboration with county emergency response agencies to improve a county's ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies affect animal and human health. Veterinarians play an integral role in CART planning and response. All of the Hudson Valley CARTs listed below welcome the participation of area veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Dutchess County Animal Response Team (DCART) - dcart@dutchessny.gov
Primary Contact: Davyd Bullock, CART Coordinator
DCART is currently building their organization and is actively recruiting volunteers. Current capabilities include the provision of community animal disaster preparedness materials and outreach, and FEMA Emergency Management Institute online training for animal emergency responders. Disaster response capabilities are anticipated to commence with the arrival of an animal disaster response trailer in the summer of 2016. A sheltering plan is under development.

Rockland County Animal Rescue Team - jensenc@co.rockland.ny.us
Primary Contact: Christopher Jenson, Fire and Emergency Services 845-364-8800
Rockland CART capabilities include the provision of shelter to the pets of evacuees, including those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Field response operations are supported by a trailer housing equipment and materials. In addition to online training via the FEMA website, CART members also receive hands-on training focusing on shelter operations, logistics, planning, and hazard assessment.

Ulster County Animal Response Team - ucart@ulstercorps.org - www.UlsterCorps.org/ucart
Primary Contact: Vicki Stoddard & Liz Wassell - 845-379-1098
UCART activates in response to declared disasters with the opening and operation of a temporary emergency pet shelter. Shelters may be set up in County provided space or in the CART's emergency sheltering trailer which can accommodate 20 pets. The CART also raises public awareness of disaster preparedness for pets and farm animals through outreach at community meetings and events.

The UCART meets monthly at the Marbletown Community Center. Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30PM.

Westchester County Animal Response Team (WesCART) - WEVR-MRC@westchestergov.com
Primary Contact: Westchester County Office of Emergency Management - 914-864-5450
WesCART provides logistical support, technical assistance, supplies, and equipment for pet and animal sheltering efforts in Westchester County. CART members provide training in animal disaster preparedness to external organizations, and promote community emergency preparedness for people with pets, livestock and service animals.

Individuals wishing to volunteer should submit an application via ServNY at: https://apps.health.ny.gov/vms/appmanager/vms/public?prog=57

West Nile Virus Positive Specimens by County and Year, 2011-2015

	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
County	Human	Equine	Human	Equine	Human	Equine	Human	Equine	Human	Equine
Dutchess	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Putnam	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rockland	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ulster	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westchester	3	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	3	0
Total	**4**	**0**	**9**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**0**

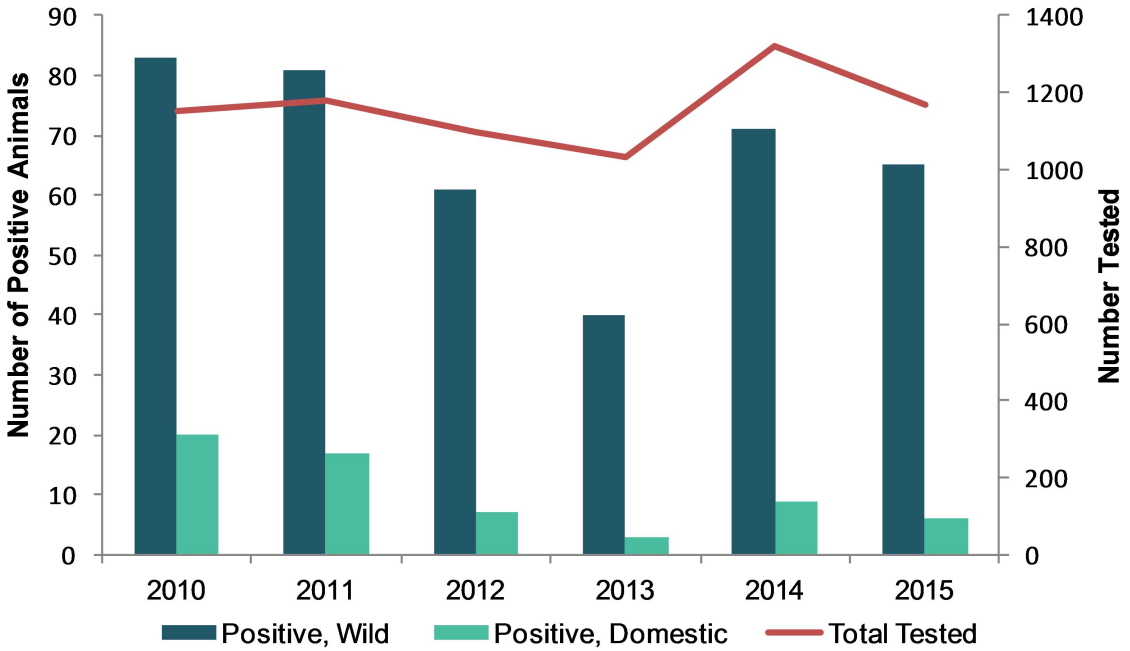
Data Source: NYS Department of Health Division of Epidemiology, USGS Disease Maps

Animals That Tested Positive for Rabies and Total Tested by Species, 2015

					Other								Other			
County	Cats		Dogs		Domestic*		Bats		Raccoons		Skunks		Wild**		Total	
Dutchess	0	25	0	13	0	0	1	57	1	5	2	3	1	6	5	109
Orange	0	36	0	19	0	4	1	52	1	5	1	1	1	10	4	127
Putnam	0	11	0	3	0	1	1	82	2	5	1	1	0	4	4	107
Rockland	0	19	0	2	0	0	1	29	5	7	1	2	0	6	7	65
Sullivan	0	11	0	9	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	29
Ulster	0	28	0	13	0	3	1	52	2	5	2	2	3	12	8	115
Westchester	6	85	0	28	0	0	9	431	16	26	9	16	1	28	41	614
Total	**6**	**215**	**0**	**87**	**0**	**8**	**15**	**710**	**27**	**53**	**16**	**25**	**7**	**68**	**71**	**1166**

*Other domestic includes horses, farmed deer, ferrets, goats
**Other wild includes foxes, bears, deer, ferrets, opossums, rabbits and rodents
Data Source: NYS Department of Health Rabies Laboratory Annual Summary Reports

Positive Rabies Results, Hudson Valley Region 2010-2015



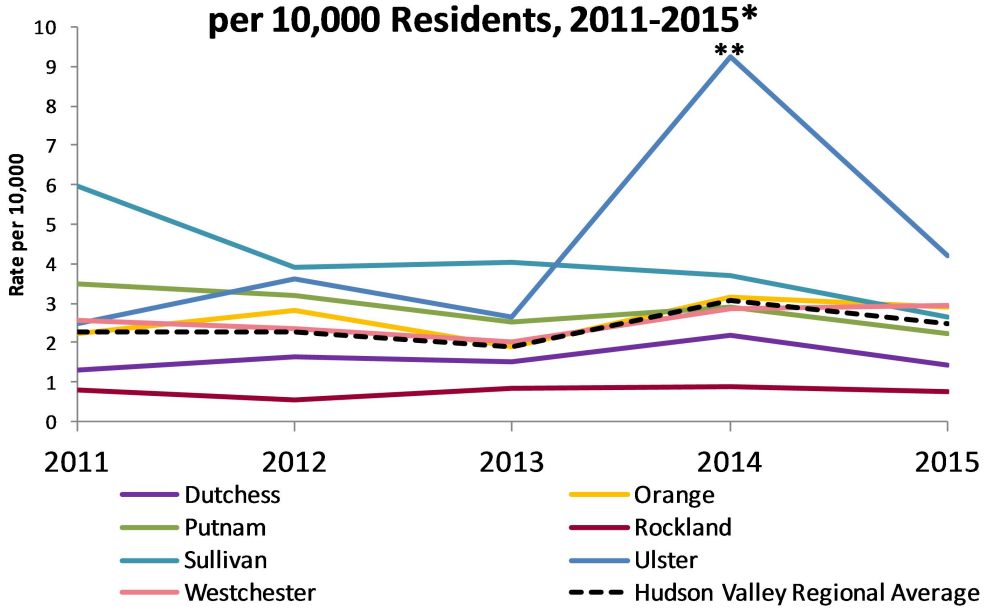
Data Source: NYS Department of Health Rabies Laboratory Summary Reports

Individuals (Humans) Receiving Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis by County and Year, 2010-2015

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Annual Average
Dutchess	54	39	49	45	65	43	49
Orange	79	84	106	71	119	109	95
Putnam	44	35	32	25	29	22	31
Rockland	35	25	17	27	29	24	26
Sullivan	16	46	30	31	28	20	29
Ulster	72	45	66	48	167	76	79
Westchester	288	247	228	194	276	287	253
Total	**588**	**521**	**528**	**441**	**713**	**581**	**558**

Data Source: NYS Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control

Rate of Individuals Receiving Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (RPEP) per 10,000 Residents, 2011-2015*



*As of the date of publication, 2015 population estimates are not available from the US Census American Community Survey. 2015 rates are based on 2014 population estimates.
** Ulster County reports a high number of human/bat contact in 2014.
Data Source: NYS Department of Health Bureau of Communicable Disease Control

Tick-borne Diseases Rates (Humans) by County, 2012-2014

Average Annual Rate per 100,000	Dutchess	Orange	Putnam	Rockland	Sullivan	Ulster	Westchester	NYS excl NYC
Anaplasmosis	21.2	6.7	17.4	1.0	0.0	11.0	1.8	3.5
Babesiosis	16.3	7.3	20.4	2.6	0.0	4.2	3.3	3.3
Ehrlichiosis	1.3	1.2	4.4	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.4	0.7
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2
Lyme Disease	171.4	159.4	287.5	74.5	118.1	221.8	22.5	53.5

Data Source: NYS Department of Health Division of Epidemiology

COUNTY CONTACT INFORMATION

County	Name	Phone	Email	After-Hours
Dutchess	James Fouts Assoc. Public Health Sanitarian	(845) 486-3404	jfouts@dutchessny.gov	(845) 431-6465
Orange	Tim Gaeta Principal Public Health Sanitarian	(845) 291-2331	tgaeta@orangecountygov.com	(845) 291-2331
Putnam	Marianne Burdick Assoc. Public Health Sanitarian	(845) 808-1390 x43160	marianne.burdick@putnamcountyny.gov	(845) 808-1390 x3
Rockland	Rick Price Rabies Coordinator	(845) 364-2594	pricer@co.rockland.ny.us	(845) 364-2594 x0
Sullivan	David Miner Registered Nurse	(845) 513-2200	david.miner@co.sullivan.ny.us	(845) 292-5910
Ulster	James Rodden, Jr. Environmental Health Manager	(845) 340-3021	jrod@co.ulster.ny.us	(845) 334-2145
Westchester	Michael Condon Senior Sanitarian	(914) 864-7359	mic3@westchestergov.com	(914) 813-5000

ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

For more information on reportable diseases,
Visit: http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/AI/disease_rep.html

Questions or Comments about Public Health News for Veterinarians?
Contact Katie Wheeler-Martin at (845) 486-3751 or kwheeler@dutchessny.gov.

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