



# Public Health Services One Health Epidemiology Program Newsletter

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**Epidemiology & Immunization Services Branch**

Friday, February 27, 2026

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## Health Alerts

- [Autochthonous Rat Lungworm \*Angiostrongylus cantonensis\* Infections in Accidental and Definitive Hosts, San Diego, California, USA | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Voluntary Recall of a Single Serial of IMRAB® 3TF, 1 mL Rabies Vaccine | Boehringer Ingelheim](#)

## Zoonotic Diseases

**New World Screwworm (NWS)**

- Although not currently present in the United States, [cases](#) continue to move further North in Mexico. The most recent reported [cases](#) have occurred in cattle in Tamaulipas. A range of other species have been affected throughout Mexico and Central America including mammals and birds.
- The larvae from the flies feed on living tissues. Untreated infestations can be [fatal](#).
- [Human cases](#) have also been identified including a traveler that returned to the United States from El Salvador.
- NWS is a Foreign Animal Disease, and animal cases are reportable within 24 hours of detection to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. For more information on testing and reporting guidance, please visit [New World Screwworm](#).

## Resources

- [New World Screwworm | County of San Diego](#)

## Avian Influenza Fall 2025-2026

- Recent [marine mammal cases](#) have occurred in California at Año Nuevo beach.
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has been [detected](#) in poultry flocks in the California counties of Butte, Placer, El Dorado, and Sonoma this season.
- Detections in California dairy herds are being monitored by the [National Milk Testing Strategy](#).
- Wild birds have [tested positive](#) in San Diego County including western gulls and Canada geese. One [mountain lion](#) has tested positive.
- Few human cases have been detected recently in the United States. However, there was [one case](#) in Washington State that resulted in the death of an older adult. This person had a backyard poultry flock and had tested positive for H5N5.
- FREE point of care COVID-19/Influenza test kits are available for people in San Diego County who work with species susceptible to avian influenza while supplies last. For more information, contact [p hs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:p hs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## Resources

- [Avian Flu Worker Safety Flyer | County of San Diego](#)
- [Avian Flu Worker Safety Poster | County of San Diego](#)

## Leptospirosis

- In the Fall of 2025, California sea lions experienced an [outbreak of leptospirosis](#) along the Central Coast of California.
- In 2020, an outbreak of leptospirosis occurred in [San Diego County dogs](#). Risk factors included boarding and dog-to-dog interactions.
- [Cases of leptospirosis](#) in San Diego County human residents are rare and typically associated with travel outside of the region.
- Leptospirosis is considered a [core vaccine](#) by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.

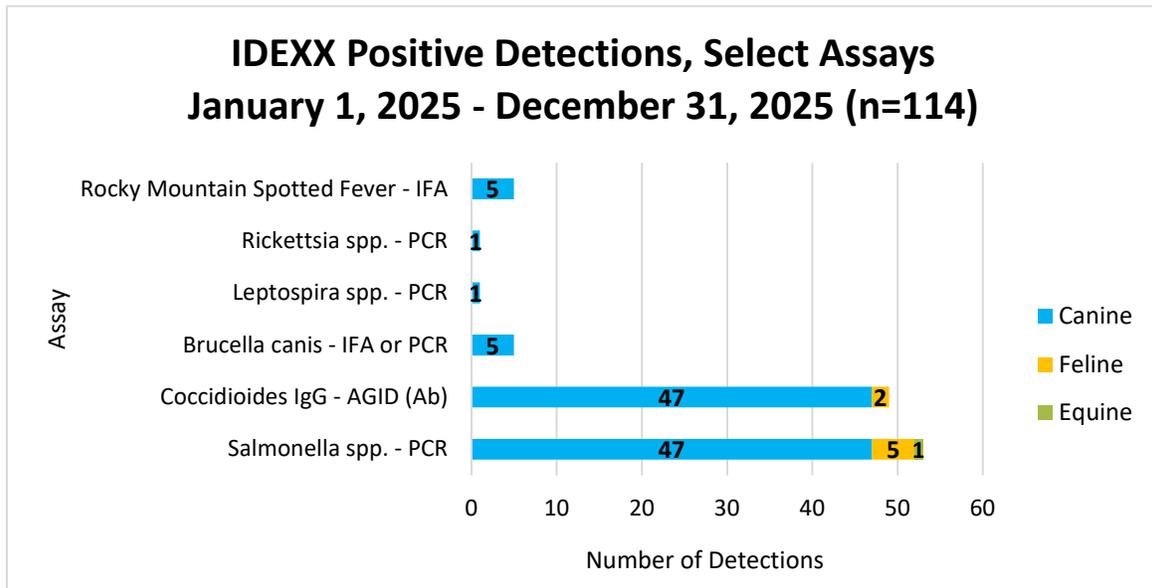
### Resources

- [Data and Reports | County of San Diego](#)

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## Zoonotic Diseases Detected in Animals in San Diego County

**Figure 1. Select Zoonotic Diseases Detected in Animals in San Diego County Reported by IDEXX, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**



**Table 1. Rabies Cases Detected by the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025**

<b>Animal Type</b>	<b>Negative (n)</b>	<b>Positive (n)</b>	<b>Total (n)</b>
<b>Bat</b>	87	<b>21</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Bobcat</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Cat</b>	135	0	<b>135</b>
<b>Coyote</b>	5	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Dog</b>	287	0	<b>287</b>
<b>Fox</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Goat</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Mountain Lion</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Opossum</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Raccoon</b>	18	0	<b>18</b>
<b>Skunk</b>	30	0	<b>30</b>
<b>Squirrel</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>591</b>

*\*Totals do not include specimens that were unsatisfactory for testing or those found outside of San Diego County.*

For more information on these or other diseases of interest, please contact the One Health Epidemiology Program at [phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## Announcements

## Save the Date: 15th Annual Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease Meeting

### Event Information

- **Date:** May 20, 2026
- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- **Location:** County Operations Center Chambers Room (5520 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123)
- **Hosted by:** County of San Diego, Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch (EISB)

Continuing education credits are available for California licensed veterinarians and nurses.

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### Recognizing 100 Years of Black History Month



Dr. Frederick D. Patterson established the Veterinary Medicine Program at Tuskegee University, making it the [first program](#) at a Historically Black College or University. Almost 75% of Black Veterinarians in the United States are [Tuskegee graduates](#).

Dr. Patterson was presented with the [Presidential Medal of Freedom](#) in 1987 for being an outstanding educator for over 5 decades.

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### View the World Organisation for Animal Health Newsletter



The January 2026 Newsletter focuses on [Investing in the Animal Health Workforce](#).

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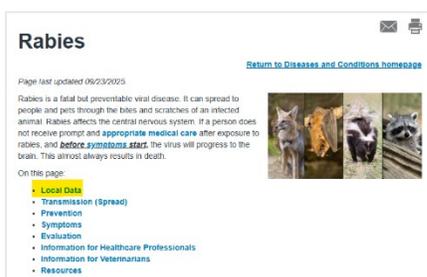
## Sign Up for CDC Zoonoses & One Health Updates (ZOHU) Newsletter & Webinar Series

View [ZOHU webinar recordings](#) to learn more about zoonotic diseases and One Health issues. Veterinarians can receive **one hour of FREE continuing education credits** for attending webinars (both previously recorded as well as live) by creating a login and taking a quiz through [CDC Train](#).

View the ZOHU Webinars Today!

## County Resources

### Check Out this NEW County Resource



- In San Diego County, [Rabies](#) is prevented through the collaboration of multiple groups working in human and veterinary medicine, and especially those in animal shelters and wildlife care.
- San Diego County has created a dashboard to share data made possible through these collaborations with the Epidemiology Unit and Public Health Laboratory.
- Find this data and more on the [Rabies Local Data](#) webpage.

## Recent Zoonotic Disease Publications

- [Rabies Cluster Among Steers on a Dairy Farm | CDC](#)
  - In May of 2024, 5 of 35 steers on a Minnesota dairy farm developed signs and symptoms consistent with rabies. Three of these steers tested positive. There was a total of five humans who were exposed and later received treatment.
- [Human-to-Human Rabies Transmission via Solid Organ Transplantation from a Donor with Undiagnosed Rabies | CDC](#)
  - A kidney transplant recipient in Ohio passed away from rabies after receiving an organ from an Idaho donor who had undiagnosed rabies.

This is the fourth known transplant-transmitted rabies event in the United States since 1978.

- [Progress Toward Eradication of Dracunculiasis \(Guinea Worm Disease\) | CDC](#)
  - Guinea worm is a subtropical infectious disease that is on the brink of eradication. Fifteen human cases were reported worldwide in 2024 and only one case in 2025. Although, there are still animal cases occurring in Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali and South Sudan.
- [Two-Year Persistence of MERS-CoV-Specific Antibody and T Cell Responses After MVA-MERS-S Vaccination in Healthy Adults | Nature Communications](#)
  - The MERS-S vaccine was tested among healthy adults in Hamburg and Rotterdam. This vaccine was deemed safe. There were antibodies still present in individuals three years after the booster was administered. This shows proper immune protection.
- [Cook County Department of Animal and Rabies Control Confirms Rabies-Positive Dog | Cook County Government](#)
  - Chicago confirmed a rare rabies case in a rabies vaccinated dog. This is the first rabies-positive dog in decades. Officials say the public risk is low and this rabies case is under investigation.

## How to Contact Us

For more information, contact the San Diego One Health Epidemiology Program through our [contact form](#), via e-mail at [phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov), or call the Epidemiology Unit at (619) 692-8499.

We want to know if you are seeing any unusual, new, or emerging animal disease or outbreak. We can provide consultation, help investigate these diseases, and provide resources. Keeping us informed helps us protect our human and animal community.

[Sign up for our One Health Epidemiology Network Updates](#)

## Community Highlights

**How to get Featured in the OHEP Newsletter**

We would love to feature your work in our newsletter! Please send photos, videos, and short descriptions to [phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) so we can highlight the work you do around the County.

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**Thank you!**

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter or the One Health Epidemiology Program, please email [phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:phs.ohep.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov).



*The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.*