Veterinary Category Day
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

08:00 - 09:00
Veterinary Category Update
RDML Kis Robertson-Hale
Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu

This presentation will provide updates from the USPHS Veterinary Category over the past year, promote discussion regarding the topic of mentorship, and will also provide updates from the AVMA related to legislative changes and future initiatives to support veterinary medicine and public health.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:
1. Describe the accomplishments that the Veterinary Category met and goals set forth for the Veterinary Category for the upcoming year.
2. Identify two best practices for mentorship and opportunities to strengthen mentoring among junior and senior officers in the Veterinary Category.
3. Describe important upcoming legislative initiatives, updates on incoming class sizes, cost of education and current debt of students from AVMA.

09:00 - 09:30
USDA’s Role and Contributions to One Health Challenges
LCDR Sally Ann Iverson
Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu

This presentation will provide an introduction to the mission areas, programs, and expertise at the U.S. Department of Agriculture that support implementation of the One Health approach.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:
1. Define One Health and list three examples of One Health challenges.
2. Describe one example of how USDA applies its resources, programs, or authorities to address a One Health challenge.
3. Describe one example of how USDA mission areas, agencies or offices collaborate on One Health challenges.
Enhanced Surveillance and Vaccination of Wildlife for Detection and Management of Raccoon Rabies Virus Variant—Omaha, Nebraska, October-November 2023

CAPT Bryan Buss
Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu

This presentation will cover response activities after the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) was notified of a rabid stray kitten in Omaha, Nebraska which was later confirmed by CDC variant typing on October 6, 2023 to have Eastern Raccoon Rabies Virus Variant (RRVV). Timely detection and variant typing allowed for a rapid and comprehensive response among local, state, and federal partners.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the index case which threatened 26 years of wildlife rabies management by USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) to protect human and animal health by preventing RRVV spread west of the Appalachian Mountains.
2. Describe enhanced rabies surveillance primarily in found-dead target-wildlife species and feral cats collected ≤10 km of the index case using a lateral flow assay and state findings.
3. Describe the USDA APHIS WS response including a trap-vaccinate-release campaign targeting raccoons and striped skunks, and distribution of RABORAL V-RG® oral rabies vaccine across 96 and 162 km² areas of Omaha.

A One Health approach to vector-borne disease surveillance

Dr. Michael von Fricken
Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu

Dr. von Fricken shares his experiences working in Mongolia utilizing a 'One Health' approach to investigate tick-borne diseases in resource-limited settings. Through targeted sampling paired with remote sensing and pathogen detection, this presentation will illustrate how holistic approaches can be used to investigate disease risk across human, animal, and environmental health.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe surveillance techniques that incorporate multiple facets of the One Health triad.
2. Identify emerging vector-borne diseases in central Asia and the risk they pose to human and animal health.
3. Describe how systems thinking approaches can be used to respond to emerging vector-borne diseases.
10:30 - 11:00

**A One Health Approach to Understanding Transmission Dynamics and Risk of Infection for Trypanosoma cruzi in Florida**

*Dr. Samantha Wisely*

*Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu*

Trypanosoma cruzi is the causative agent of Chaga’s Disease and infects >7 million people throughout the Americas. This vector-borne pathogen has been identified in wildlife and kissing bugs in Florida, but the transmission dynamics and risk to humans are poorly understood. Our One Health team, composed of an infectious disease physician, an entomologist and a wildlife ecologist, collaborated to describe the disease ecology and transmission pathways of T. cruzi in wildlife, kissing bugs and people in north central Florida.

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify wildlife species that are main reservoirs of Trypansoma cruzi in Florida.
2. Describe the classic transmission pathways of T. cruzi that puts humans at risk.
3. Describe how Virginia opposums may increase transmission risk of T. cruzi to humans.

11:00 - 13:00

**Exclusive Exhibit Hall Time**

Please join us in the Exhibit Hall to meet with our event Sponsors and Exhibitors.

13:00 - 13:45

**Veterinary Category Day Luncheon**

13:45 - 17:30

**Offsite Wetlab: Introduction to Navy Entomology and NECE capabilities**

*CDR Ian Sutherland*

*Moderator: LCDR Allison Siu*

This training will take place at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence and aim to introduce public health veterinarians to the principles of vector surveillance, diagnostics, and control techniques of ticks and mosquitoes in a field setting. Trainees will gain competency in military strategies for vector control, the assembly and placement of vector traps for the collection of tick and mosquito specimens, traditional and novel methods for the identification of collected arthropod specimens, and the deployment of rapid field diagnostics. Trainees will also learn about appropriate biosafety practices for the handling of arthropod specimens.
After attending this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe methods for mosquito collection, identification, and control; and be familiar with methods for tick collection, control and differentiate species by key morphological features.
2. Describe zoonotic disease prevention and control in both military settings and within agricultural industry.
3. List two field forward methods for vector-borne disease surveillance and testing.