

Reportable Zoonoses in Animals

Since 2015, the British Columbia Chief Veterinary Officer shares reports of certain zoonotic diseases in animals with the Provincial Health Officer or delegate (i.e. BCCDC). Fourteen zoonotic diseases in animals plus new or unusual diseases or clusters with potential public health significance are reported to public health authorities to consider and possibly initiate a public health response. The Reportable Zoonoses Guideline¹ outlines the process for reporting and the recommended public health response. Summary guidelines for veterinarians are also available². Separate guidelines dedicated to rabies for both public health professionals and veterinarians are also posted on the BCCDC website³.

Excluding rabies, 16 cases of reportable zoonoses in animals were reported to public health in 2016. Diseases included influenza, Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii* infection), *Mycobacterium genavense* infection and West Nile virus (WNV). Investigation of 2 of the WNV horse cases (1 in FHA and 1 in IHA) revealed that they may have been infected outside of BC. All of the other cases of zoonotic disease were believed to have been acquired in BC. The animal species affected included livestock, pets and wildlife. The affected animals resided in three Health Authorities.

For rabies, many suspect animal cases are identified each year. A total of 148 samples were submitted from BC to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency laboratory for rabies testing in 2016⁴. Eighteen bats were positive for rabies virus. At least one rabies positive bat was detected within the boundaries of each Health Authority in BC.

1. <http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/CompleteReportableZoonosesGuidelineFinalVers.pdf>

2. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/disease-types/zoonotic-diseases/reportable-zoonoses>

3. http://www.bccdc.ca/Documents/BC%20Rabies%20Guidance%20for%20Veterinarians_July%202017%20EF.pdf
<http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%201%20-%20CDC/BCRabiesGuidelines.pdf>

4. <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/rabies/rabies-in-canada/>

33.1 Reportable Zoonoses reported in BC in 2016.

Disease	Month	Species	Health Authority
Low pathogenic avian influenza	February	Wild duck	Fraser Health
Influenza (pH1N1)	April	Skunk	Fraser Health
Q fever	April	Goat	Fraser Health
<i>Mycobacterium genavense</i>	June	Parrot	Island Health
West Nile virus	November	Horses (1)	Fraser Health
West Nile virus	August	Horses (9)	Interior Health
West Nile virus	August	Crows (2)	Interior Health
Rabies (18 cases)	Various	Bat	All