

## Reportable Zoonoses in Animals

In 2015, an information sharing agreement took effect that enables the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of British Columbia to share reports of certain zoonotic diseases in animals with the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) or delegate. Fourteen zoonotic diseases, plus new or unusual diseases or clusters with potential public health significance, were identified for which the occurrence in animals will be reported to the public health authorities to consider and possibly initiate a public health response. The 14 diseases are: anthrax, BSE, brucellosis, chlamydiosis (psittacosis in humans), swine influenza, avian influenza, plague, Q fever, rabies, trichinosis, tuberculosis, tularemia, West Nile virus and zoonotic viral hemorrhagic fever. The Reportable Zoonoses Guideline outlines the process for reporting and provides background information about each disease as well as an outline of the recommended public health response. Summary guidelines for veterinarians are also available. Separate guidelines dedicated to rabies for both public health professionals and veterinarians are also posted on the website.

Excluding rabies, seven cases of reportable zoonoses in animals were reported to public health in

2015 (Table 34.0). The diseases detected included viral, bacterial and fungal diseases. Investigation of the blastomycosis cases revealed that the animals were most likely infected outside of British Columbia. All of the other cases were caused by pathogens known to be endemic to British Columbia. The animal species involved included livestock, pets and wildlife. All of the affected animals resided in Fraser Health Authority.

Rabies is a special case with many suspect animal cases identified each year. A total of 97 samples were submitted from BC to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency laboratory for rabies testing in 2015. Bats, of various species, accounted for the majority of the samples (70/97). Other species submitted included 16 cats, 6 dogs, 2 coyotes, 1 bovine and 1 raccoon. There was one sample submitted from a suspected human case. Ten samples (all bats) submitted were positive for rabies virus. At least one rabies positive bat was detected within the boundaries of all Health Authorities 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/health-info/diseases-conditions/rabies>

*34.1 Reportable Zoonoses reported in BC in 2015.*

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Health Authority</b>
<b>Q-fever</b>	January	Cow	Fraser Health
<b>Blastomycosis</b>	May	Dog	Fraser Health
<b>Blastomycosis</b>	August	Red panda	Fraser Health
<b>Psittacosis</b>	September	Pigeon (farmed)	Fraser Health
<b>Low pathogenic avian influenza</b>	November	Wild duck	Fraser Health
<b>Swine influenza (pH1N1-09)</b>	December	Swine	Fraser Health
<b>Low pathogenic avian influenza</b>	December	Wild duck	Fraser Health
<b>Rabies (10 cases)</b>	Various	Bat	All