

Reportable Zoonoses in Animals

Since 2015, the British Columbia Chief Veterinary Officer shares reports of selected zoonotic diseases in animals with the Provincial Health Officer or delegate (i.e., BCCDC). Fourteen zoonotic diseases, plus new or unusual diseases or clusters with potential public health significance, were identified for which the occurrence in animals is reported to the public health authorities to consider and possibly initiate a public health response. The reportable zoonoses include: anthrax, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, brucellosis, chlamydiosis (psittacosis in humans), influenza A in swine, avian Influenza H5 and H7, plague, Q fever, rabies, Tichinosis, tuberculosis, tularemia, West Nile virus, zoonotic viral hemorrhagic fevers. 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, 7 cases of reportable zoonoses in animals were reported to public health in 2017 (Table 29.1). Diseases included influenza (avian and

swine), chlamydiosis, and West Nile virus (WNV). The animal species affected included turkeys, cats, pigs, and horses, which resided in three Health Authorities (Fraser, Interior, and Northern Health Authorities). All four cases of WNV in horses were believed to have been acquired in BC and were all detected in the Kootenay Region of the province. There were fewer WNV cases in 2017 compared to 2016, where 10 horse cases were detected. No new regions of the province were identified with cases in 2017.

For rabies, many suspect animal cases are identified each year. A total of 122 samples were submitted from BC to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency laboratory for rabies testing in 2017⁴. Nine percent (11/122) of bat specimens were positive for rabies virus. Human exposure occurred in 45% (5/11) of positive bat cases. At least one rabies positive bat was detected within the boundaries of 4 out of 5 Health Authorities in BC (Figure 29.2). No positive bats were detected in Northern Health in 2017; however in previous years, all health authorities have had positive rabies cases in bats.

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>

4 <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/reportable/rabies/rabies-in-canada/eng/1519159995664/1519159996478>

29.1 Reportable Zoonoses reported in BC in 2017.

Disease	Month	Species	Health Authority
Low pathogenic avian influenza	February	Turkey	Fraser Health
Chlamydia psittaci	November	Cats (2)	Fraser Health
Swine Influenza (H3N2)	March	Swine	Northern Health
West Nile virus	August, September	Horses (4)	Interior Health
Rabies	Various	Bats (11)	All areas

29.2 Number of bats tested for rabies in British Columbia in 2017.

