

Health Risks to US People and Animals Posed by Imported Dogs

Swine Flu

AVMA: State authorities see disease risk in imported rescue dogs December 2019

"... In addition to bringing viruses or bacteria that may be transmissible to other dogs, there is certainly a risk that the animals—any animal—could carry an infecting agent that could be passed to people or other animal species..."

<https://www.avma.org/javma-news/2019-12-01/state-authorities-see-disease-risk-imported-dogs>

Canine Influenza

Canine Influenza H3N2 cases imported from Asia in Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, March 2018

"Outbreak in 35 dogs, most imported from Asia - In March 2017, a local veterinarian reported a potential outbreak of canine influenza H3N2 in dogs imported from Asia. The dogs showed signs consistent with influenza such as coughing, sneezing, fever and nasal discharge...After a prolonged investigation, a total of 52 dogs exposed to the virus were identified, including 35 sick animals. Of the 35 sick dogs, the virus was confirmed by PCR in 6 dogs and suspected in the other 29 dogs..."

"Single case in an ill dog imported from Asia to the San Gabriel Valley - In May 2017, a single dog imported from Asia was found to have fever and pneumonia soon after arrival. The dog was taken to two veterinary practices in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County. It was kept at home until it appeared healthy but was not isolated for 40 days. After it appeared healthy, it was taken to local dog parks. This case was not reported until August 2017, three months after the dog's illness..."

"Single case in a dog imported from South Korea - In mid-March 2018, a group of 3 dogs were imported from South Korea. One of the 3 had ocular and nasal discharge, and tested PCR positive canine influenza H3N2. The sick dog was placed into 40 days of home isolation, and the 2 exposed dogs were placed in a 14-day home quarantine. An additional dog on the same flight was also quarantined at home for possible exposure..."

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/InfluenzaCanineH3N2.htm>

Rabies

Rescued Dog from Egypt Tests Positive for Rabies, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, February 2019

“On Feb. 25 the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was notified of a dog in Missouri that tested positive for rabies. This dog was part of a group of 26 dogs that were imported from Egypt at the end of January 2019 by Unleashed Pet Rescue...”

<https://kchap2.kdhe.state.ks.us/NewsRelease/PDFs/02-27-2019%20Rescued%20Dog%20from%20Egypt%20Tests%20Positive%20for%20Rabies.pdf>

Importation of Dogs with Rabies and Canine Distemper Virus into New York City and Surrounding Areas, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, February 2018

“...Rescue dogs are regularly imported into and through New York City for adoption and for purchase...Several rescue dogs imported from other countries into or through New York City subsequently developed severe neurologic illness and have been diagnosed with rabies or canine distemper virus (CDV) in recent years...”

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/zoo/18vet01.pdf>

Rabies in a Dog Imported from Egypt, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, December 2018

“On December 20, 2017, a shipment of four rescue dogs arrived at JFK from Cairo, Egypt. Two transporters and one owner retrieved the dogs, with planned distribution to foster homes and permanent owners in Connecticut, Maryland, and Virginia. A fifth dog on the flight, traveling with a separate flight parent and not part of this shipment, shared the cargo hold and was temporarily housed in New Jersey and West Virginia before reaching its Washington destination...”

...On assessment at a Connecticut veterinary clinic on December 21, dog A exhibited hyperesthesia (increased sensitivity to stimuli) and paresis. The dog bit a veterinary technician during a blood draw procedure and died shortly thereafter. The clinic submitted brain tissue for rabies testing to CDPHL. On December 26, CDPHL confirmed rabies virus infection by direct fluorescent antibody testing and informed CDC. On December 28, CDC confirmed the direct fluorescent antibody results and determined the variant was consistent with Africa 4 subspecies canine rabies virus circulating in Egypt.

...All five dogs had certificates indicating rabies vaccination both at ≥ 3 months and ≥ 30 days before arrival at a U.S. port of entry, as required by CDC dog importation regulations...

...This report describes the sixth importation of a rabid dog into the United States in the past 15 years and the third from the Middle East; all six were rescued dogs."

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6750a3.htm?s_cid=mm6750a3_e

Rabies in a Dog Imported from Egypt with a Falsified Rabies Vaccination Certificate, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, December 2015

"On May 30, 2015, a shipment of eight dogs and 27 cats arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City from Cairo, Egypt. The animals were distributed to several animal rescue groups and one permanent adoptive home in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Four dogs from the shipment arrived in Virginia on May 31, 2015 and were distributed to three foster homes associated with a Virginia-based rescue group (group A). On June 3, an adult female street dog (dog A) imported by animal rescue group A became ill. The dog had been imported with an unhealed fracture of the left forelimb, and 4 days after arrival at a foster home in Virginia, developed hypersalivation, paralysis, and hyperesthesia. CDC determined that the variant was consistent with canine rabies virus circulating in Egypt..."

...Among the eight dogs in the Egyptian shipment, only dog A and two dogs aged 6 months (dogs F and G) had certificates indicating rabies vaccination at or after age 3 months and ≥ 30 days before arrival at a U.S. port of entry, as required by CDC dog importation regulations. Following dog A's rabies diagnosis, rescue workers reported that the dog's vaccination certificate had been intentionally predated in Egypt."

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6449a2.htm>

Rabies in a Dog Imported from Iraq, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, October 2008

"On June 5, 2008, a shipment of 24 dogs and two cats arrived in the United States from Iraq as part of an international animal rescue operation..."

...On June 8, one of the 24 dogs, a mixed-breed aged 11 months (dog A), became ill and was taken to a veterinarian the next day. The dog was hospitalized with fever, diarrhea, wobbly gait, agitation, and crying. The dog's condition deteriorated, progressing to lateral recumbency with periods of agitation. On June 11, the dog was euthanized. Specimens were shipped to the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories for rabies testing, but delivery of the specimens was delayed. On June 18, the specimens were tested, and rabies was diagnosed. Specimens also were submitted to CDC, where rabies was confirmed on June 26 and typed as a rabies virus variant associated with dogs in the Middle East..."

...Upon arrival in the United States, none of the 24 dogs were accompanied by the valid rabies vaccination certificates required for admission by CDC animal importation regulations."

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis Found in Puppy from Puerto Rico, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, November 2017

“The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is investigating a group of 10 puppies potentially infected with leptospirosis that were imported to Vermont and New Hampshire from Puerto Rico on November 9. On November 12, a number of these puppies were brought to the outdoor patio at Ramunto’s Brick and Brew Pizzeria at 9 South Street in Hanover, NH, where patrons were able to interact with them. Since coming to the area, five of these puppies have become sick and one tested positive for leptospirosis, a bacterial infection that can be transmitted from animals to humans and other pets.

...Individuals and families who adopt pets from other countries or U.S. territories like Puerto Rico should be aware of the risks of importing animals, and these animals should undergo the appropriate veterinary inspection and quarantine to prevent the spread of diseases such as leptospirosis.”

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/pr/2017/11172017-leptospirosis.htm>

Canine Melioidosis

Imported Case of Canine Melioidosis, New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, April 2016

“Melioidosis in humans presents variably as fulminant sepsis, pneumonia, skin infection and solid organ abscesses. It is caused by Burkholderia pseudomallei, which in the United States is classified as a select agent, with “potential to pose a severe threat to both human and animal health, to plant health or to animal and plant products...”

“...Human cases are rare in the United States and are usually associated with travel to endemic areas. Burkholderia pseudomallei can also infect animals. We describe a multijurisdictional public health response to a case of subclinical urinary B. pseudomallei infection in a dog that had been adopted into upstate New York from a shelter in Thailand. Investigation disclosed three human contacts with single, low-risk exposures to the dog’s

urine at his residence, and 16 human contacts with possible exposure to his urine or culture isolates at a veterinary hospital. Contacts were offered various combinations of symptom/fever monitoring, baseline and repeat B. pseudomallei serologic testing, and antibiotic post-exposure prophylaxis, depending on the nature of their exposure and their personal medical histories. The dog's owner accepted recommendations from public health authorities and veterinary clinicians for humane euthanasia..."

"...A number of animal rescue organizations actively facilitate adoptions into the United States of shelter dogs from South-East Asia. This may result in importation of B. pseudomallei into almost any community, with implications for human and animal health..."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29451368>

Canine Onchocercosis

Canine Infections with *Onchocerca lupi* Nematodes

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control

May 2015

"We report 8 cases of canine onchocercosis in Minnesota, New Mexico, Colorado, and Florida. Identification of 1 cytochrome c oxidase subunit 1 gene haplotype identical to 1 of 5 from Europe suggests recent introduction of this nematode into the United States.

...Dogs relocated from disease-endemic areas to new areas should be routinely screened for skin-dwelling microfilariae because these parasites might represent a risk for other animals. In addition, because O. lupi nematodes circulate among canine populations, the potential role of dogs as reservoirs for human infection should not be underestimated, as also inferred by zoonotic cases reported in the United States."

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/21/5/14-1812_article

Screwworm

New World Screwworm

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

May 2014

“In September 2007, screwworm larvae were found on a dog that had recently entered the United States from Trinidad and Tobago. An alert private veterinarian detected the larvae and submitted them to the NVSL for identification. State and Federal animal health authorities immediately took measures to track the dog’s movements from Florida to Mississippi, disinfect sites where the dog spent time, and prevent any spread of the pest.

...In May 2010, a similar incident occurred when a private veterinarian found screwworm larvae on a dog that traveled from Venezuela to Florida. The Florida location was thoroughly treated to destroy any larvae that may have exited the wound.

...If this pest became established in the United States again, it could cause more than \$1 billion in losses for our country’s livestock industry.”

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2014/fs_new_world_screwworm.pdf
