

THE VRC CONNECTION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009 VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

GET HAPPY – STAY HEALTHY!

FAIR INSPECTIONS SWING INTO FULL GEAR

As the days get shorter and the temperatures get cooler, fair season is in full swing. Fair season usually kicks off in late July and runs through early November. And what would the fair be without the animals? Whether it is the livestock competition, the cow-calf displays, or the petting zoo, animals are an integral part of the fair experience and of agriculture in North Carolina. NCD&CS personnel inspect animal exhibits for compliance with Aedin’s Law. Passed in 2005, this law and associated NC Administrative Code (NCAC) provide for the regulation of animal exhibitions at sanctioned agricultural fairs as they may affect the public health and safety. Petting zoos, pony rides, milking booths, and all other exhibits where animals are displayed for public contact must be inspected and permitted by NCD&CS personnel prior to opening. *Continued on Page 3.*



MAKING RABIES HISTORY

Veterinarians used World Rabies Day 2009 to spread one simple but important message about rabies control and prevention: educate and vaccinate. Approximately 55,000 people die each year from the disease, which is most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. In many cases, human death is attributable to people not knowing they have been exposed to rabies. See *“Making Rabies History”* on Page 2 to find out how you can help eliminate this disease.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Alliance for Rabies Control

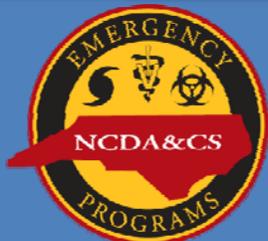
SAVE THE DATE! ONE MEDICINE 2009

The Seventh Annual One Medicine Symposium, "Humans & Birds & Pigs - Oh My! – A One Medicine Approach to Emerging Influenzae" will focus on the effects of emerging influenzae on public health, animal health, and agriculture in North Carolina. It will be held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham on December 9, 2009. The registration fee is \$35.00. Continuing education credit is pending. Please see the "Save the Date" flyer on Page 4.

For more information and to register, please visit www.onemedicinenc.org.



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES
Emergency Programs Division
 Steve Troxler, Commissioner Sharron Stewart, Director



PREPARING FOR THE STORM

NCDA, PARTNERS PRACTICE FOR HURRICANE SEASON

On August 8th, 60 representatives from NCDA&CS, USDA, NC Emergency Management, local universities, federal agencies, county partners and NCVRC participated in an activation drill in the Agriculture Emergency Operations Center (AgEOC) in Raleigh. We reviewed activities that would lead up to activation of the state EOC and, in parallel, the AgEOC. Seminars led participants through the levels of activation and time frames related to these. The latest update of the state's Emergency Operations Plan (NCEOP) has slightly changed the Levels of Activation. Please review these changes at www.nccrimecontrol.org/div/EM/documents/NCEOP-2009-PublicVersion.pdf.

An AgEOC activation will closely mirror these same levels in an event. The AgEOC anticipates being busy once a Level 2 activation is reached. At this point, possibly earlier, the AgEOC will become a hive of activity planning and preparing for a forecasted event. During this period, you may receive updates so that you can be prepared to receive requests and possibly join the volunteer responders.

This event also allowed those representatives who would likely be representing their agencies in the AgEOC to become familiar with communications tools in the AgEOC such as the VIPER radio system and the WebEOC software package. Attendees were educated on logistics issues, safety needs, NCDA&CS's food distribution network for a disaster event and how we and the state will likely make our transition back to normalcy. Attendees also participated in a scavenger hunt in the WebEOC to help with the familiarization of information and its capabilities.

Keep your "ears on" in 2010 as we hope to take the next step toward drilling these concepts and likely sending "Training Info & Alerts" to you. Be sure to log on to servNC to update your information, as notifications will be sent through this service. ServNC is the online registration system for medical and health responders for the State of North Carolina.

Article courtesy of Dr. Bruce Akers.

VRC COORDINATOR

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Complete your VRC

registration at

www.servnc.org.

Notifications will be sent
through servNC.

REQUIREMENTS FOR VRC DEPLOYMENT

- ICS 100, 200, and 700
- Biosecurity/PPE Training
- Knowledge of NC Emergency Management
- Knowledge of Emergency Support Functions
- Attendance at VRC Meetings
- Sign a Code of Conduct

Making Rabies History, *cont.*

Veterinarians play the most important role in protecting domestic animals, and the general public, against rabies. Most pets that die from rabies were either never vaccinated against rabies or didn't receive the appropriate booster dose of vaccine in a timely manner. Most people that die of rabies did not understand the necessary steps to prevent rabies and didn't seek appropriate medical treatment after they were exposed. Clearly, education and vaccination are the cornerstones of rabies prevention in the U.S. and worldwide.

World Rabies Day serves as a platform to deliver these life saving messages. Since 2007, the Campaign has helped educate an estimated 55 million people and vaccinate more than 1.5 million animals.

World Rabies Day is evidence that a large percentage of human and animal rabies deaths can be prevented simply through appropriate educational messages and regular vaccination of domestic animals.

Veterinarians hold the key to protecting domestic animals and the general public against rabies. They can help save lives by providing rabies prevention education to clients, working cooperatively with local animal health agencies, serving as an expert resource on responsible pet ownership and spreading the message about the importance of vaccinating all dogs, cats and ferrets against rabies.

To learn more about World Rabies Day 2009, the global initiative to control and prevent rabies, and how you can help spread the word about the disease, visit www.worldrabiesday.org.

*by Deborah J Briggs and Peter J Costa,
Alliance for Rabies Control*

2 October 09

UPCOMING EVENTS

- North Carolina Veterinary Conference – November 6 – 8, 2009
- 2009 One Medicine Symposium – December 9, 2009
- Foreign Animal Disease Workshops – Spring 2010 – Spring 2011
- CAMET and Shelter Training – Through Summer 2010

Dates are tentative. Please check www.ncvrc.org for updates.

VRC SPOTLIGHT:

Julie Bradley,
RVT, CPDM

As I sit down to write this spotlight, I realize that it has been ten years since I became involved in emergency management and the State of North Carolina. It was then that many of us experienced Hurricane Floyd, a natural disaster few of us will forget any time soon. I remember the day that Dr. Ferris and Dr. Hudson came to me and said, "We have to set up an emergency response shelter in the parking lot." The three of us and many others have learned a lot since then and it was a steep learning curve. It became very apparent very quickly that North Carolina needed to have a response plan in place that addressed the animals and owners. Well, we went all out and established the State Animal Response Team and, later, the Veterinary Response Corps was established. North Carolina stepped up to the plate to help out not only the agricultural side of animal response, but also the pet side.



Julie Bradley and her 9 year-old Maltese, Bailey

Thanks to NC Emergency Management and FEMA, there have been numerous classes made available to the veterinary professional. Through these groups I have been able to complete ICS 100-400, 700, and 800 training, and many other courses that relate to the care of animals and working with the public in an emergency situation. If it was not for groups like this and NCVRC, the loss and suffering that we would see in future emergencies is unbearable to think of. I am honored and proud to be a part of this group and to work with the great Veterinarians and Technicians that are members.

To see recent news and updates, please visit the VRC website at www.ncvrc.org. If you have questions about the VRC or would like to offer suggestions or articles for future newsletters, contact Mandy at mandy.tolson@ncagr.gov.

GET HAPPY – STAY HEALTHY, *continued*

Animals in these exhibits must meet health requirements including a recent examination by an accredited veterinarian and, for certain species, current rabies vaccination. The NCAC also outlines requirements for signs, fencing, hand washing facilities, staffing, and manure disposal.

Throughout the year, NCDA&CS personnel work with animal exhibit operators and fair managers to review Aedin's Law requirements and how the animal exhibit(s) will be designed to meet those requirements. On opening day for each of the 46 sanctioned agricultural fairs in the state, NCDA&CS personnel visit with the fair managers and animal exhibitors to inspect all animal exhibits for compliance with Aedin's Law. In 2008, this effort, including both site visits and exhibit inspections, required more than 2,000 hours of personnel time.

Article courtesy of Dr. Karen Beck.



ABOUT VRC

OUR MISSION To train and prepare professionals in the animal care community to respond to disaster events (all hazard) that affect both production and companion animals. Our members will serve as a resource for our state and the nation.

Save the date

Seventh Annual

"One Medicine" Symposium

December 9, 2009

Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center | Durham, North Carolina

**NC
FOCUS**

Humans & Birds & Pigs - Oh My!

A One Medicine Approach to Emerging Influenzae

A conference for physicians, nurses, veterinarians, veterinary technicians, public health professionals, environmental health specialists, agriculture professionals, wildlife professionals, and federal, military, state and local disaster responders.



For registration information and other details visit

www.onemedicinenc.org or call 919.515.2261.

- Continuing education is pending. See final announcement for specific details. The CDC is accredited as a provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.
- Registration Fee is **\$35.00**

Conference objectives:

- Address the differences between swine influenza viruses and the Novel H1N1 Flu to aid in preparedness efforts in animal and public health.
- Discuss influenza surveillance, prevention, and mitigation strategies for humans and swine.
- Describe the impacts of Novel H1N1 Flu on public health and the agricultural industry.
- Emphasize the "One Medicine" approach of close cooperation between human and veterinary medicine for a rapid and effective response to terrorism, disease, and natural disasters.

