



LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH and  
RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM



**ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING  
SUMMARY FOR THE TIME-STRESSED, 2010**

- **Important Points about Animal Disease Reporting**
  - There is an increasing effort to track significant zoonoses, emerging infectious diseases, and outbreaks in companion animals and wildlife in addition to agricultural animals.
  - Data from animal surveillance assists both veterinarians and physicians.
  - In some cases and outbreaks, VPH-RCP may be able to assist with diagnostics.
  - Data from surveillance improves Public Health's ability to detect bioterrorist attacks.
    - Anthrax, plague, tularemia, and botulism are on the list of potential bioterrorist agents. These organisms, although only rarely causing natural infections, are considered endemic in LA County. Local veterinarians and physicians should keep these infections on their differential diagnoses lists.
- **Legal Requirements**
  - Los Angeles County law states that all infectious diseases in animals are reportable to Public Health.
    - LA County Veterinary Public Health has established guidelines and a list of diseases of elevated priority for reporting.
- **What to report.**
  - Occurrence of any unusual disease.
  - Outbreak or cluster of any animal diseases/deaths (definition of "cluster" is 3 or more cases).
  - Animal illness concurrent with human illness.
  - Disease not endemic to area.
  - Illness in an animal recently imported from another country
  - Any disease on the Disease Priority List.
- **How to report.**
  - Fill out appropriate disease reporting form. If the disease has a specific form, ideally use that form. Fax completed form to (213) 481-2375
  - You can also report online at: [publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/disintro.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/disintro.htm)

Please call our office at (213) 989-7060 if you have questions about our data or our surveillance. Ask to speak to one of the veterinarians.