**Animal Control**
(Pets can be hazardous to your health)

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Why should Public Health Agencies be interested in Animal Control?

- **Wild Animals Spread diseases**
  - directly, or via ticks, mosquitoes & other biting insects
    - Bats spread rabies
    - Rats can spread rabies, although rarely
    - Raccoons can spread salmonella, and typhus via fleas
    - Corbies can host West Nile Virus
    - Snakes and Pigeons can host Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

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**Domestic Animals**

- Can spread diseases directly or by intermediate hosts
  - Dogs can kill by biting, or cause permanent injury
  - Dogs can pass parasites
  - Dogs can transmit rabies
  - Dogs can transmit:
    - Leptospirosis
    - Histoplasmosis
    - Salmonellosis
    - Whipworm
  - Measles (canine distemper)
  - Brucellosis
  - Tuberculosis
  - Diphtheria

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Other domestic animals

- Besides dogs
  - Cows, Horses, Cats have all transmitted Rabies
  - Cats can transmit toxoplasmosis
  - Cows used to spread Tuberculosis through milk until herds were immunized and tested
  - Reptiles (turtles, lizards, snakes) can transmit salmonella

Animal Control Activities

- Most health departments have responsibilities for
  - Rat Control
  - Mosquito Control
  - Bite Prevention

Rat Control

- In most urban settings housing authorities and city information officers refer rat control issues to health departments who
  - Investigate to locate source
  - Recommend control measures
  - May bait public areas for rat
  - Recommend Pest control companies
Mosquito Control

- In urban areas health departments are usually responsible for mosquito control
  - Malaria
  - Yellow Fever
  - Dengue
  - SL & EE Encephalitis
  - West Nile Virus

Mosquito Control (cont.)

- Responsibilities include
  - Mosquito Collection
    - How many, what type, where located
  - Mosquito breeding
    - to determine susceptibility to pesticides.
    - to determine blood meal contents
  - Larviciding
  - Adulticiding

Wild Animals

- As the urban areas penetrate the countryside and provide breeding and feeding areas attractive to wild animals local health departments with advice of state game wardens determine
  - Hazard to people & pets from
    - deer, raccoon, skunk, bear, puma and
    - Wildlife kept as pets, with or without permits.
Dogs

• In most communities are controlled by a mix of police, SPCA and local health departments to prevent
  – Bites
  – Disease to people, particularly children
  – Abandonment
  – Cruelty
  – Diseases transmitted to other animal
  – Poor Housing of domestic animals

Bite Prevention

• In most communities, occurs after the fact
  – Consider recent deaths from animal bites in Virginia
• In some communities advisory boards take pro-active positions to prevent bites
• Use of leash laws
  – Rarely enforced
• Requirement for Rabies immunization
• Use courts or administrative panels?

Bite Control (cont.)

• Training of animal control officers by
  – National Animal Control Association Training Academy
• Training as a police officer, to take evidence
• Training in Public Relations
• Training in animal care
Training (cont)
- Enforcement of leash laws
- Evidence of Cruelty
- Animal capture
  - Nets
  - Poles
  - Darts
- Adoption
- Euthanasia

Cats and Dogs
- In some cities cats and dogs are controlled by high fences
- Requirement for licensing Cats and Dogs
- Display of licenses
- Rabies Vaccination for cats
- Population control (cats and dogs)
  - SPCA Neutering Programs

Administrative Panels
- Advisory Board of citizens, veterinarians, humane agencies, postal delivery and meter readers
- Administrative hearing board to manage vicious animals
  - Remove from community
  - Euthanize
  - Educate