

Section 1: Introduction

- 1-1. Purpose of this manual - letter from Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHKSC)

Information & resources

Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

www.kingcounty.gov/health (main website)

Environmental Health Services Division

401 5th Avenue, Suite 1100, Seattle, WA 98104, Phone: (206) 205-4394,
Fax: (206) 296-0189, www.kingcounty.gov/healthServices/health/ehs.aspx

Public Health Veterinarian (Environmental Health Services Division)

Dr. Sharon Hopkins, Phone: (206) 263-8454, E-mail: sharon.hopkins@kingcounty.gov
After-hours phone number: (206) 726-2454

Communicable Disease Epidemiology & Immunization Section (Prevention Division):

401 5th Avenue, suite 900, Seattle, WA 98104, Phone: (206) 296-4774,
Fax: (206) 296-4803, www.kingcounty.gov/healthServices/health/communicable.aspx
Telephone hotline with updates on diseases and outbreaks: (206) 296-4949

Dead bird reporting (Environmental Health Services Division)

Website: www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/westnile/deadbird.aspx
Phone: (206) 205-4394

Newsletters

Epilog (PHSKC): www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/epilog.aspx

Zoonotic Diseases (Washington State Department of Health):

www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/zdnewsletter.html

Other resources

Washington State Department of Health, Zoonotic Disease Program

Phone: (360) 236-3372, www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/ZOO.HTM

Dr. Ron Worhle, Veterinarian, Phone: (360) 236-3369, E-mail:

Ron.Worhle@DOH.WA.GOV

Washington State Department of Agriculture, Animal Health Program

www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/default.htm

Phone: (360) 902-1878, E-mail: ahealth@agr.wa.gov, Dr. Leonard Eldrige, State Veterinarian

Washington Poison Control Center

Hotline 1-800-222-1222, www.wapc.org/

Washington State University, Zoonosis Research Unit

www.vetmed.wsu.edu/orgWSU-ZRU/History.asp

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One Health Mission Statement

Recognizing that human and animal health and mental health (via the human-animal bond phenomenon) are inextricably linked, **One Health** seeks to promote, improve, and defend the health and well-being of all species by enhancing cooperation and collaboration between physicians, veterinarians, and other scientific health professionals and by promoting strengths in leadership and management to achieve these goals.

www.onehealthinitiative.com

Dear King County Veterinarian,

Writing in the **One Health** newsletter earlier this year, AVMA Past-President Dr. Roger Mahr said, *"I truly believe that animal and public health are at a crossroads. No other profession has as much impact on the health of both animals and people. The convergence of animal, human and environmental health dictates that the "one health" concept be embraced, and that the veterinary medical profession take on the responsibility of assuming a major leadership role in that effort"*.

In our survey of veterinarians practicing in King County, we found that most of you recognize your important role. Over three-quarters of respondents agreed that it is 'very important' for veterinarians to educate clients on zoonotic disease prevention. The results also indicated that King County veterinarians would welcome stronger partnerships with Public Health and other health professionals. To further our common goals of protecting animal, human and environmental health, we have assembled this binder of resources for veterinarians. In it you will find information on regulations pertaining to disease control, reporting and animal movement; disease fact sheets; client education handouts; lists of important contacts; and the zoonotic disease compendia published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians.

I'd like to call your attention to several sections. The first is Section 4 (Rabies) -- many veterinarians do not realize that county Board of Health regulations require dogs, cats and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age and immunity maintained by regular boosters. Another sometimes overlooked requirement is reporting of animal bites to people—see Section 5 (Animal Bites). In Section 12 (Infection Control & Disease Prevention in Veterinary Practices) you will find the **Compendium of Standard Veterinary Precautions**. Every practice should have an infection control plan and provide regular training for staff on zoonotic disease control. This compendium defines norms for infection control in veterinary practices and contains a model infection control plan template that you can use to develop your own practice-specific plan.

Also in Section 12 are the results of our survey of King County veterinarians. You will recall that in late 2006 Public Health mailed a questionnaire to all veterinarians in King County. We were gratified by the very high response rate (83%) and would like to again extend our thanks to all of you who participated. The survey results appeared in the October 15, 2008 issue of JAVMA and were used to develop the contents of this binder.

We'll keep the resource binder current by periodically mailing section updates. I welcome your feedback on this binder and how Public Health can better partner with you and other health professionals for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,



Sharon G. Hopkins, DVM, MPH
Public Health Veterinarian