



ANIMAL BITES AND RABIES EPIDEMIOLOGY

PRESENTED BY

DRS. CURTIS FRITZ & ELIZABETH ROBERTS

This seminar will provide an overview of animal bites and rabies epidemiology, surveillance and prevention. Approximately 50,000 bites are reported by California residents each year. An epidemiologic summary of animal bites in California between 2008 and 2012 will be described. Key preventive measures at the individual, population and community level, including relevant statute and regulation, will be presented. The indispensable role of veterinary practitioners in this public health venture will be emphasized.



Curtis Fritz, DVM, MPVM, PhD is a native Californian, a 1989 UCD DVM graduate who then spent another 5 years pursuing graduate work. After working in his specialty in remote corners of the world, he returned in 1996 as an epidemiologist in the Vector-Borne Disease Section of the CA Dept. of Public Health. In 2011 Dr. Fritz was appointed State Public Health Veterinarian where he has responsibility for the statewide programs in rabies and psittacosis control as well as wild animal importation and quarantine oversight. In his spare time, Dr. Fritz earned a place on the *Davis Mad Cows Triathlon Team* and was ranked "All American" by the US Triathlon federation in 2003 and 2006.

Elizabeth Roberts, DVM, MPH is a 2005 UCD DVM graduate with an MPH from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is currently completing a 12-month CA Epidemiologic Investigation Service Fellowship with the Veterinary Public Health Section at the CA Dept. of Public Health. She practiced as a public health veterinarian and also shelter medicine for seven years in San Mateo, San Francisco, and Alameda counties.

www.PeninsulaVMA.org

Tuesday July 15, 2014

This PVMA meeting offers 1 hour of CE Credit

The meeting will be held at **The Vans Restaurant** in Belmont which is located at **815 Belmont Avenue**, west off El Camino Real, up the hill. There is parking adjacent and also across the street to the west.

6:30pm for adult beverages - 7:00pm for dinner and program

PVMA members FREE * Life Members \$25 * Guests \$60

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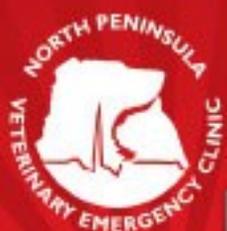
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All submissions must be received by
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COYOTES CAUSE CATS CAUTION

Feral and stray cats living near six parks and nature preserves in the Chicago area have found themselves to be in some of the most dense coyote populations on record. A new study published recently in the journal *PLOS ONE* indicates that the “interaction” of cat and coyote has actually become a boon to birds and small mammals who were previously the victims of predatory feral cats. Coyotes have become very comfortable living in or near densely populated neighborhoods. Likewise, they have gravitated to city parks and nature preserves where they sometimes prey on free-roaming cats. Cats are not using the open areas in cities so much any more because of the coyote presence there. This has become true not only in the Chicago area, but throughout the nation including urban and suburban California. This study is the first to show how coyotes and free-roaming cats share space and interact with each other in urban areas.

Recent published information on “urban coyotes” has shown that there is a hybrid version that has greatly increased in number nation-wide. Known as a “**Coywolf**” it is thought to be a cross between the Eastern Wolf (or Red Wolf) and the Western Coyote. Since Gray Wolves kill coyotes, few hybrids occur in nature. A PBS Special (PBS.org/Nature) covered this topic at length earlier this year. The Coywolf is larger and longer-legged than either wolves or coyotes. The hybrids are more mellow than pure coyotes, which are known to be scrappy, and have made themselves at home in many large cities much to the dismay of feral cat feeders but heartily welcomed by advocates of songbirds.



“Please take me home with you,
it’s cold and scary out here!”



IN THE NEWS



Aedes aegypti Mosquito

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District has detected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes at 13 locations in Menlo Park as well as others in Atherton and San Mateo in 2014. This species is common in the southeastern United States but is not native to California. Known also as “the Yellow Fever mosquito” it has the potential to transmit several viruses including Dengue and Yellow Fever. So far, no illnesses associated with this mosquito have been reported locally.

The District has deployed a variety of traps for adult mosquitoes in active or suspected areas. District staff also conducts door-to-door inspections of properties for mosquito larvae and standing water around homes.

The *Aedes aegypti* species is a tiny (about a quarter-inch) black and white mosquito that bites most often during the day. The Yellow Fever mosquito lays its eggs in standing water, just above the water line in small containers such as pots, pet bowls, bottles and bird baths. The public can play a critical role in helping control the spread of this mosquito population. It’s important for residents to survey around their house and yard to eliminate even the smallest amount of standing water. For residents with pools or ponds, the District will deliver special fish that eat mosquito larvae and can be kept in the pond as a protective device. Call the District office at the number below for more information or visit www.smcmad.org.

Residents experiencing mosquito bites during the day should report them to the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District. If possible, capture the villain and turn it in for identification and testing. Pickup service is available. The District office can be reached at **(650) 344-8592**.