

2013 Veterinary Science CDE Scenario Questions

Scenario #1: Zoonotic, vector-borne diseases in the United States continue to increase, which has drawn tremendous attention to the news media to publish the reported outbreaks of these diseases in human and animal populations.

West Nile encephalitis is a viral disease of wild birds, such as blue jays, crows, and hawks, and is transmitted to people and animals by bites of mosquitoes. With the recent rise in morbidity and mortality in people and horses, the frequency of neurologic illnesses and deaths related to this disease is of most concern.

Lyme disease is bacterial disease of wild rodents, like mice and squirrels, and is transmitted to people and animals by the bites of the deer tick. This disease has been of concern for several years, because it affects people and dogs and may result in a chronic debilitating disease.

Discuss the roles of the county health department and private veterinarians in preventing these two diseases in the susceptible hosts and in controlling the reservoir hosts and arthropod vectors.

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Scenario #2: Biosecurity is of great importance for preventing entry of infectious diseases into animal populations, which could lead to disease outbreaks with devastating economic losses to the animal industries. In addition to biosecurity, bio-containment measures must also be practiced to control diseases that have entered animal premises.

Veterinarians have a major responsibility in educating clients on routine practice of biosecurity and bio-containment measures for animal operations. Veterinarians must be on guard in their practice of veterinary medicine to personally prevent introducing and spreading diseases while working on animal premises.

Discuss the key points of client education for a cow-calf herd and give examples of cattle diseases that have high risk of entering and spreading in the herd. Discuss the precautions for veterinarians to exercise and give examples of contagious cattle diseases that veterinarians could introduce or spread while providing veterinary services on a cow-calf farm or ranch.