

District of Columbia Animal Disease Surveillance Summary Report, 2018

February 18, 2020

Introduction

Zoonotic diseases (or zoonoses) are infections that are spread between animals and people. Zoonotic disease diagnosed in companion animals, exotic pets, and wildlife, are important potential indicators, or sentinels, for human illness. DC Health’s Animal Disease Surveillance System integrates monitoring of animal health with surveillance of diseases of public health importance. Surveillance data enables expeditious response and planning for public health threats since animals can often serve as sentinels for human illness.

Yearly surveillance data from the Animal Disease Surveillance System are summarized into an annual report that is available to everyone on the DC Health webpage. Summary statistics along with geographical distribution of cases is included where appropriate. Diseases for which no cases were reported in 2018 are not included in this report. In 2018, the following number of animal disease cases were submitted to DC Health for each specific disease conditions:

2018 Summary of Cases

	Dogs	Cats	Birds	Ferrets	Total
Canine Parvovirus	17	NA	NA	NA	17
Feline Panleukopenia	NA	20	NA	NA	20
Leptospirosis	6	0	NA	NA	7
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0
West Nile Virus	0	0	3	0	3
Lyme disease	3	0	NA	NA	3
Confirmed Foreign Animal Disease	0	0	NA	NA	0
Grand Total					50

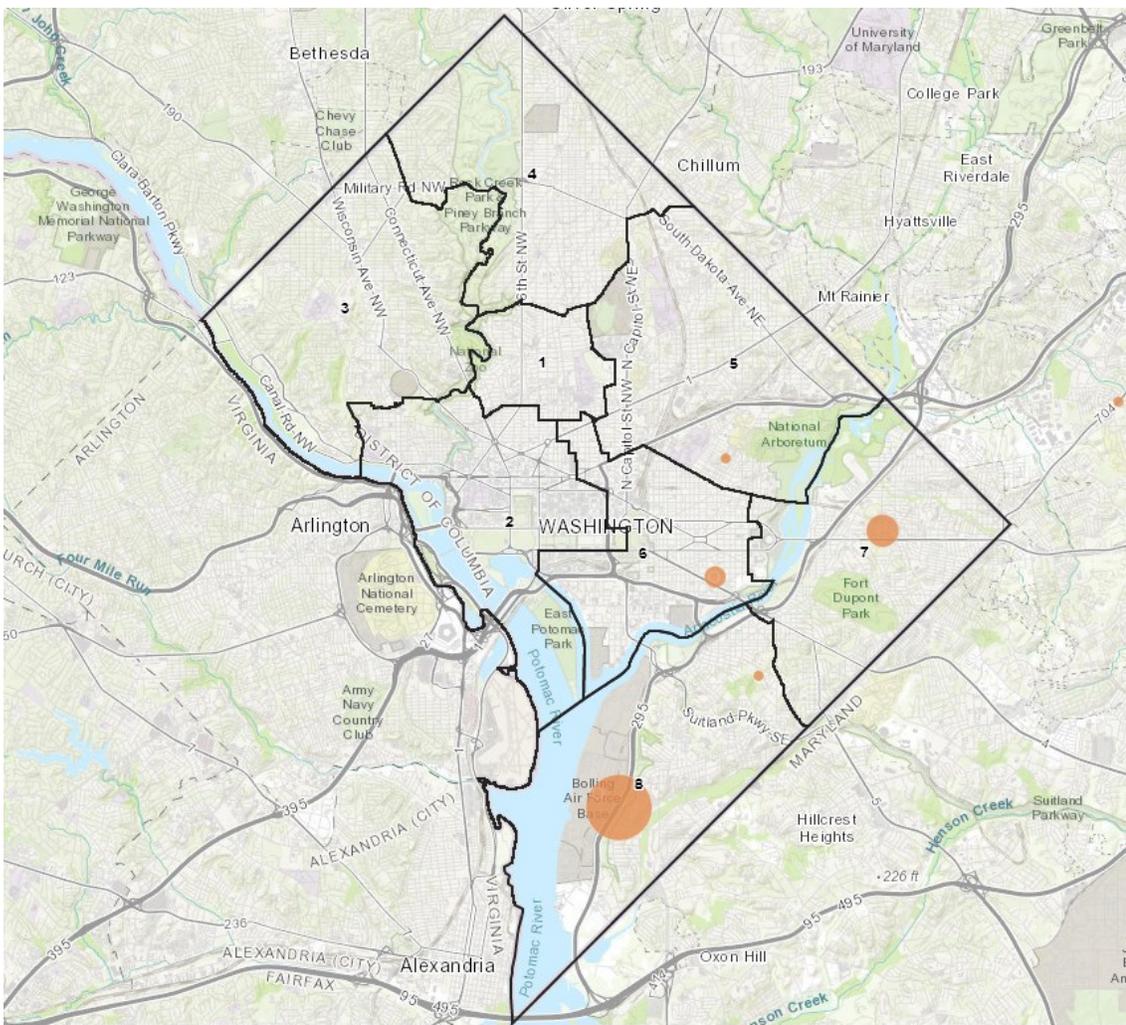
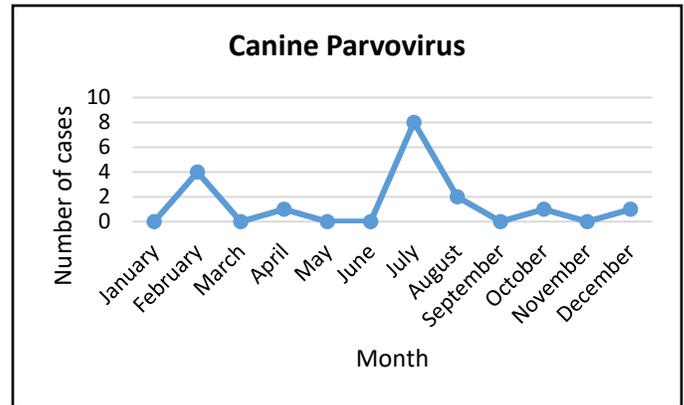
Total Facilities Reporting[‡]	7
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[‡]Total facilities reporting reflects only those facilities that have reported positive cases and not the total number of facilities participating in the surveillance system

Canine parvovirus

In 2018, there were 17 cases of parvovirus reported. These were reported in 6 individual dogs and 3 litters of puppies. Litter size varied between 2 and 6 puppies.

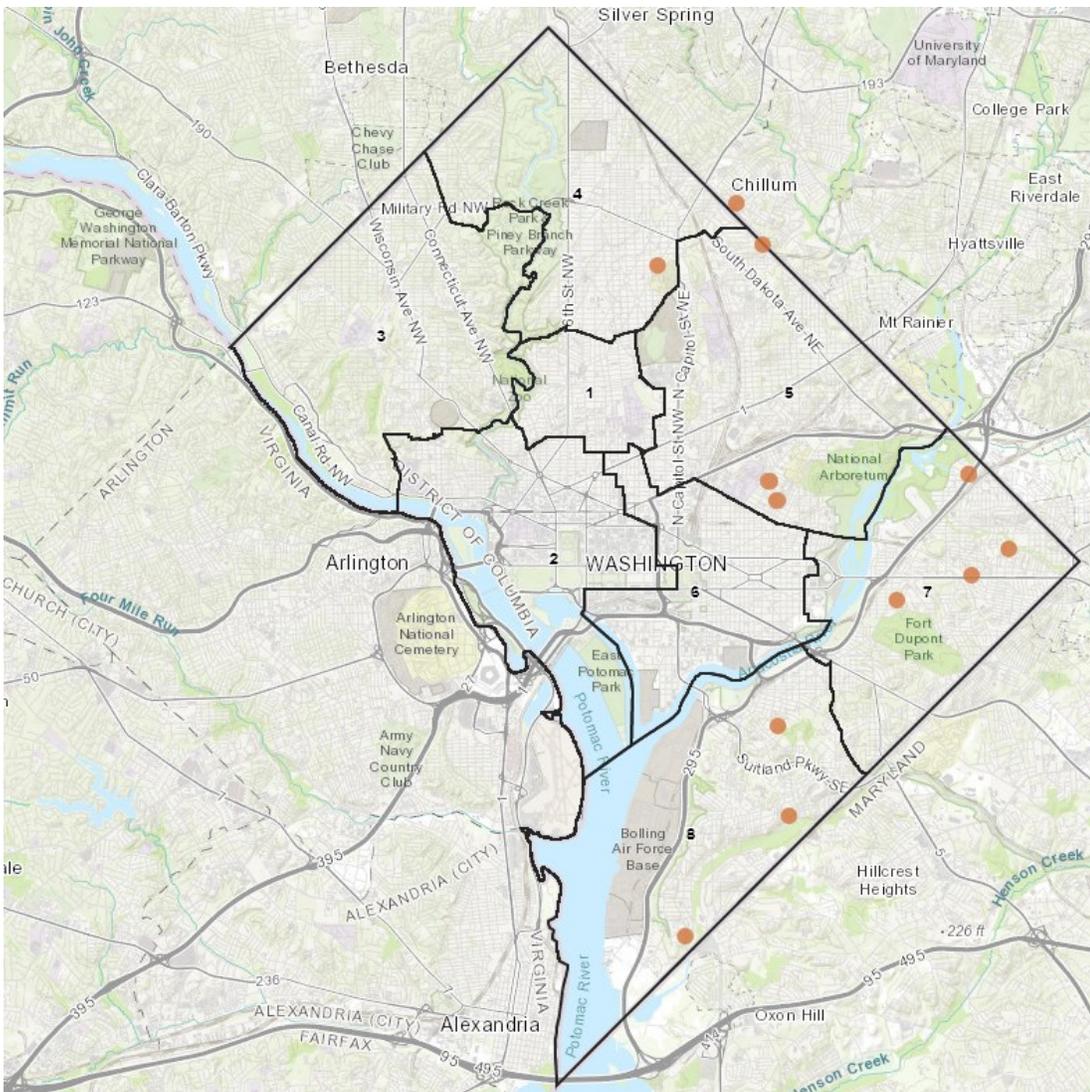
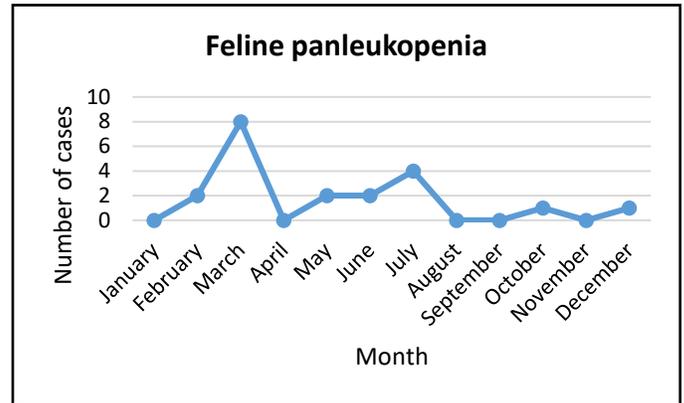
The points on the map do not correlate to a specific address and to only the zip code where case originated. The larger the point, the more cases reported from that zip code.



Feline panleukopenia

In 2018, there were 20 cases of panleukopenia in individual kittens.

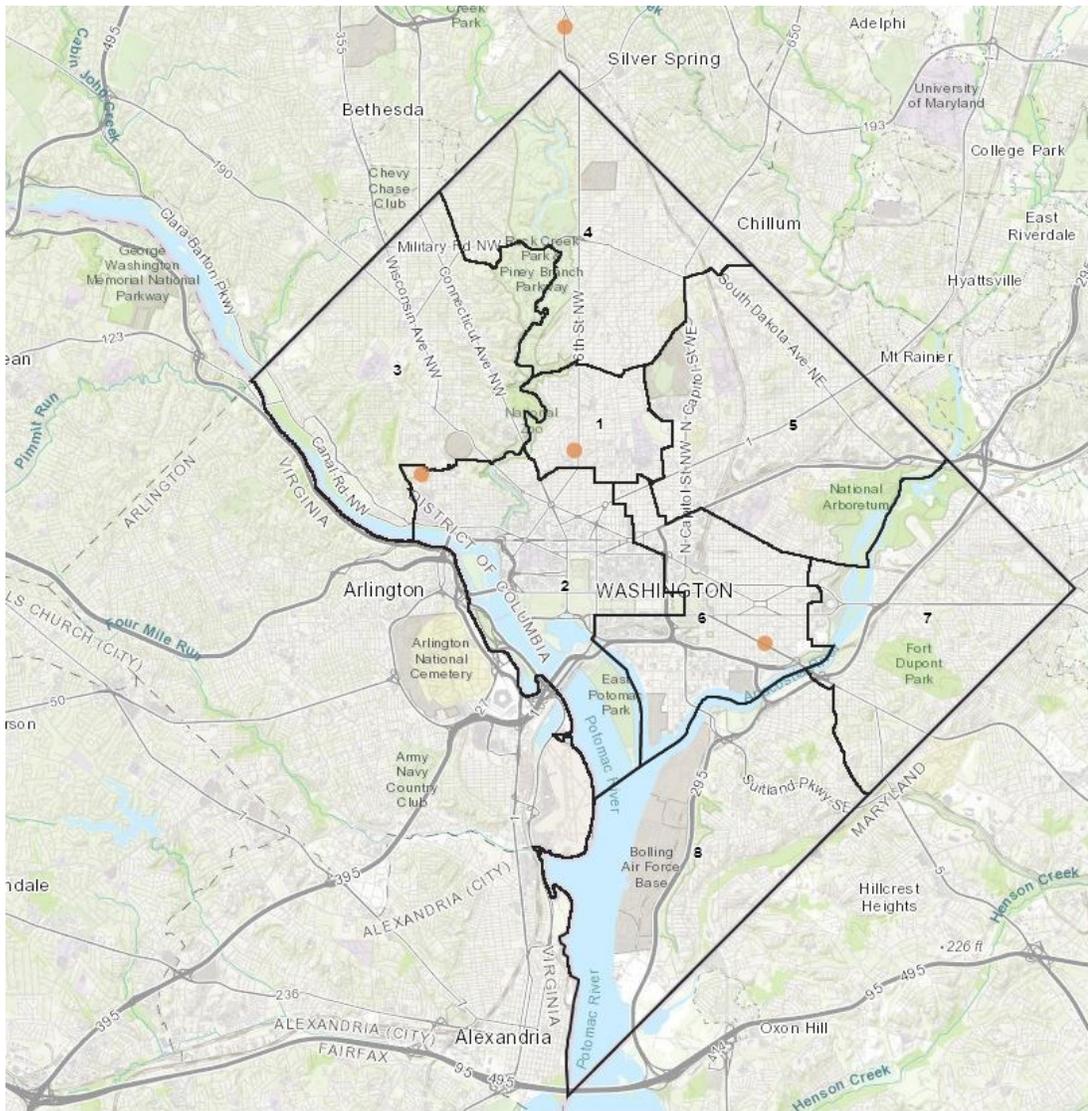
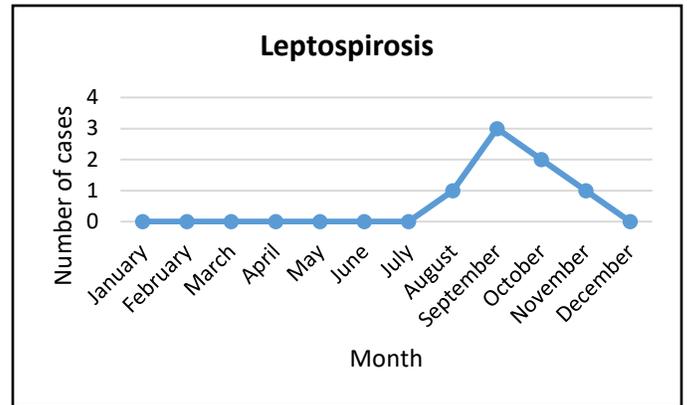
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Leptospirosis

In 2018, there were 7 cases of leptospirosis reported in dogs.

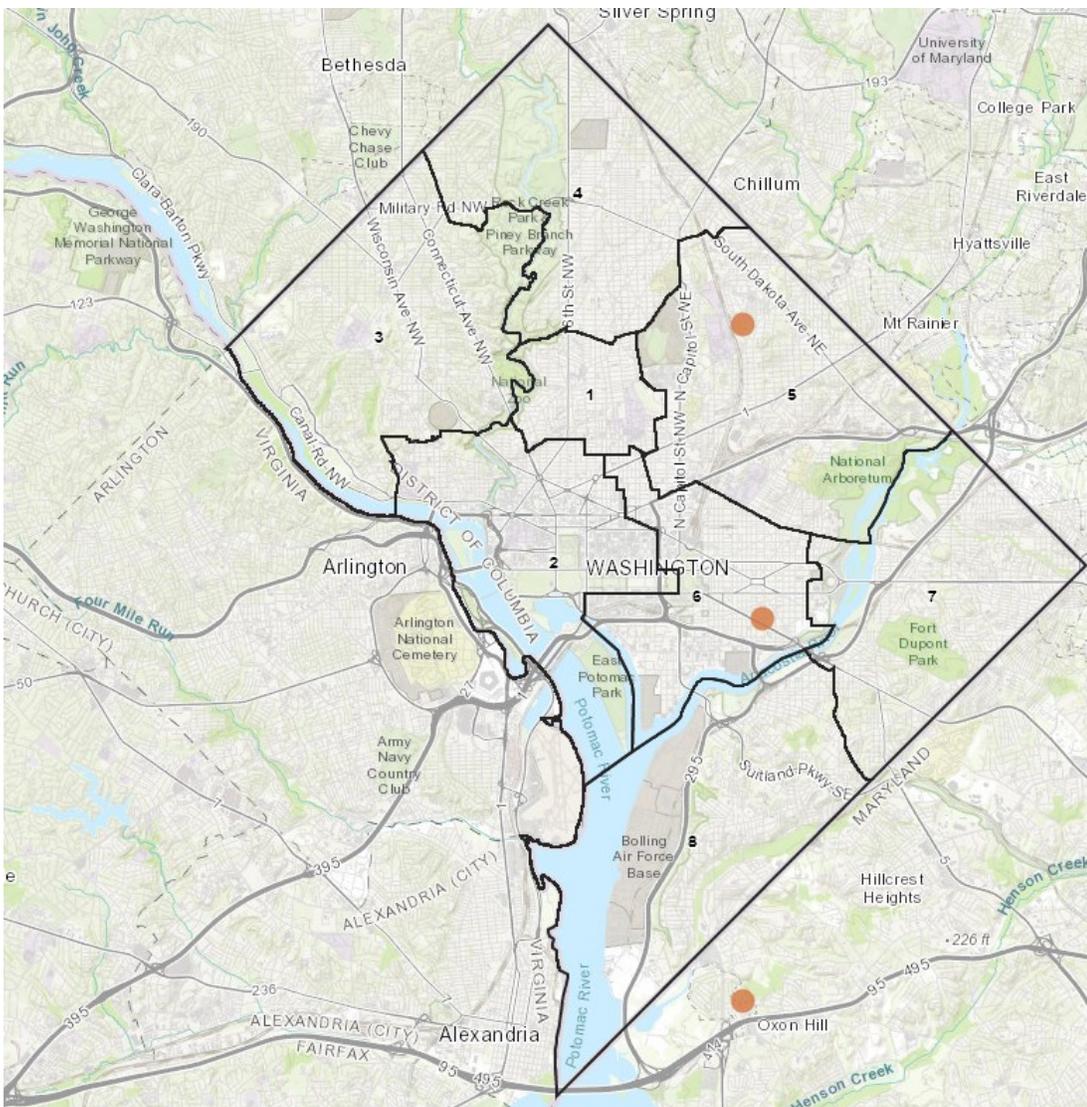
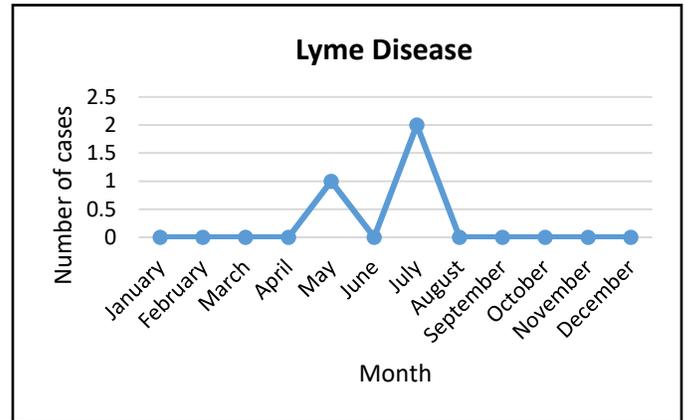
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Lyme Disease

In 2018, there were 3 cases of Lyme disease reported in dogs.

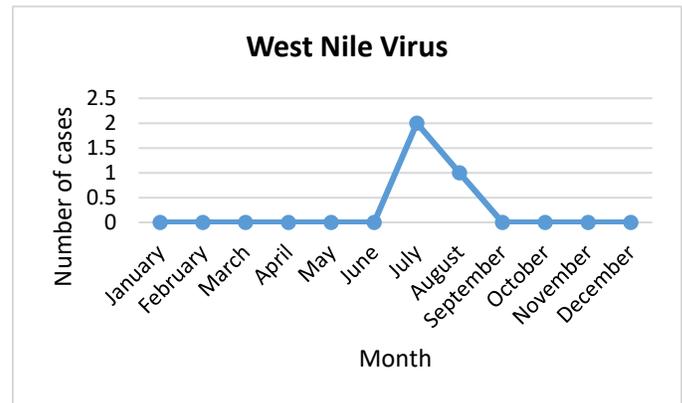
The points on the map do not correlate to a specific address and to only the zip code where case originated. The larger the point, the more cases reported from that zip code.



West Nile Virus

In 2018 there were 3 cases of West Nile Virus reported in 2 American crows and 1 Bald eagle.

A map of diseases has not been included to protect the identity of reporting facilities.



Conclusion

Disease surveillance of companion animals and wildlife comprises a critical gap in animal disease surveillance which is typically focused on domestic livestock and domestic poultry populations. The DC Animal Disease Surveillance System, which was established in 2017, helps address this important surveillance gap.

Participation in our surveillance efforts are voluntary. In 2018, 7 facilities out of approximately 20 facilities routinely provided case information. As a result, disease burden in companion and wild animals in DC may be underrepresented. Standardized case definitions for companion animal diseases of importance to human health are not available nationally. This may make data difficult to interpret in the context of human health.

DC Health seeks to strengthen its Animal Disease Surveillance System using a One Health approach which recognizes that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment. Through continued collaboration with our partners and stakeholders, the DC Animal Disease Surveillance System will evolve and inform both animal and human health outcomes. Through this collaborative effort DC Health promotes appropriate vaccinations of all dogs and cats residing in the District and education of healthcare professionals and the public. For more information, please visit <https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/zoonotic-diseases>.