

# ZOOONOSIS CONTROL

PUBLIC HEALTH REGION 11

SPRING-QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2025



## MARCH

	2025	2024	2023
JANUARY	0	0	0
FEBRUARY	0	0	0
MARCH	2	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### TEXAS RABIES REPORTS

Extensive information about rabies in Texas is available at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/>. The "Cases/Statistics" link will take you to monthly and annual rabies reports showing the animals tested for rabies by County as well as to a search query that lists confirmed rabies cases in individual counties. The "Maps" link will allow you to view Texas maps showing the rabies cases by County, species and/or rabies virus variant from 2003 to the present.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES REGION 11

A Continuing Education (CE) event is scheduled in **June**. For registration details refer to page 5.

Animal Control Officer (ACO)  
 Basic Training Course  
**September 10-12, 2025**  
 Laredo, Texas

Continuing Education (CE)  
 Local Rabies Control  
 Authority (LRCA) Training  
**November 7, 2025**  
 Kingsville, Texas

**More information  
 coming soon!**



### 2025 MOSQUITO ROUND-UP

The Texas Department of State Health Services Region 11 will resume the Monthly Mosquito Round-Up starting in May. See details on **page 3-4**.



## CHICKS, BUNNIES AND SALMONELLA



Many families will be celebrating Easter in a few days. Along with the cute chicks, furry bunnies and colored Easter eggs comes another important but not-so-cute topic to think about: *Salmonella*. *Salmonella* are bacteria that can cause gastro-intestinal illness. There are many species and serotypes of *Salmonella*, and animals and raw eggs can be sources for many of them. Typical symptoms of *Salmonella* infection include fever, headache, malaise, abdominal pain, nausea, and diarrhea.

Easter egg hunts are a popular tradition. Plastic eggs can be filled with goodies and hidden, but hard-boiled eggs should not be hidden if they are going to be eaten. Hard-boiled eggs should be thoroughly boiled and kept refrigerated until served. If hollow eggshells are used for *cascarones*, they should be disinfected before filling with confetti. Children should not be allowed to handle or break raw eggs as this could lead to the ingestion of *Salmonella*.

Another Spring tradition is giving chicks, ducklings and bunnies to children as gifts. Chicks, ducklings and other animals can be a source of

*Salmonella*, and very young children should not be allowed to handle them. *Salmonella* can cause serious illness in young children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with weakened immune systems. It is very important that people wash their hands with soap and warm water immediately after handling animals to prevent the spread of bacteria. Chicks and ducklings that are carrying *Salmonella* do not usually become ill from the bacteria.

Unfortunately, many of these gift animals end up at shelters or die from inadequate care. Parents should always be consulted before giving a child a live animal. They require proper feeding, care and veterinary services, and the parents must be willing to assume the responsibility if the child doesn't.

Chicks, bunnies and ducklings mature quickly into adult animals. Rabbits should be neutered if they are going to be kept as pets. This will prevent any unnecessary breeding and unwanted bunnies. Additionally, many cities have ordinances prohibiting poultry or limiting the number and types of pets.



## 2016 COMPENDIUM OF ANIMAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and a public health problem. The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) has published the "2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control." These guidelines serve as the basis for animal rabies prevention and control programs throughout the United States and facilitate standardization of procedures among jurisdictions. Recommendations include principles of rabies prevention and control, vaccination procedures and a listing of animal rabies vaccines licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The compendium is available on the NASPHV website at [www.nasphv.org](http://www.nasphv.org).



**DSHS South Texas**  
Public Health Region 11 Serving You



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



## SOUTH TEXAS MONTHLY MOSQUITO ROUNDUP 2025

To help provide insight of mosquito borne disease risks in South Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Region 11 Zoonosis Control program partners with local health departments to enhance mosquito & arbovirus surveillance.

In preparation for the upcoming 2025 mosquito season and **9<sup>th</sup>** Annual Monthly Mosquito Roundup, mosquito depots in *Cameron, Hidalgo, Kleberg, Starr, and Willacy* Counties are established to facilitate testing of mosquitoes by the DSHS Arbovirus Laboratory.

Mosquito depots provide local jurisdictions the ability to expand mosquito surveillance activities by providing a local drop off point for mosquitoes to be tested for arboviruses.

Mosquito depots will be located at Cameron County Public Health (San Benito), the Hidalgo County Health & Human Services (Edinburg), the Willacy County Emergency Medical Services (Raymondville), Rio Grande City Code Enforcement Department (Rio Grande City), and the City of Kingsville Health Department (Kingsville).

During the **South Texas Monthly Mosquito Roundup**, DSHS Region 11 Zoonosis Control Program will provide:

- Pick up & Shipping of mosquitoes to the DSHS Arbovirus Laboratory collected at the mosquito depots for arbovirus testing at no cost to submitters.
- Mosquito-borne disease educational materials:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/texasmosquitoes/resources/print/>
- Mosquito trapping equipment may be available to be loaned out from local health departments or DSHS Region 11 Zoonosis Control Program (mosquito trap training videos are available online i.e. YouTube).
- Mosquito trap placement, education, and guidance.

### South Texas Monthly Mosquito Roundup Requirements:

- The submitter is an incorporated municipality or county.
- The submitter is willing to set up traps and collect mosquitoes once a month on the predetermined collection dates.
- The submitter is willing to deliver the collected mosquitoes to their designated mosquito depot by the depot close times.

### South Texas Monthly Mosquito Roundup Process:

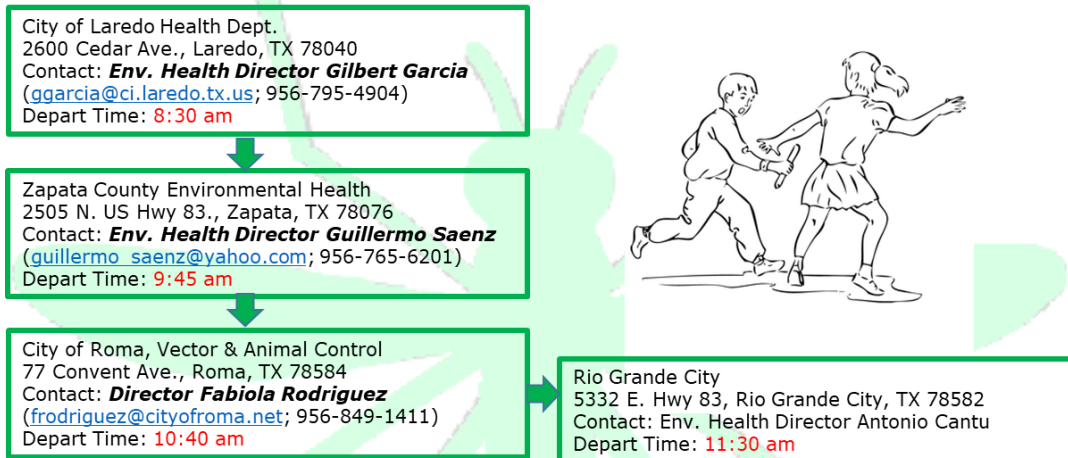
1. Mosquitoes will be trapped and collected by local jurisdictions once a month (on pre-scheduled dates).
2. Mosquitoes will then be transported to their designated county mosquito depot **by the depot's close time**. If your local jurisdiction does not submit the mosquitoes to your designated depot by the close time, please coordinate with Region 11 Zoonosis to transport the mosquitoes to Harlingen by 3 pm.
3. DSHS Region 11 Zoonosis Control Program will pick up mosquitoes at depots.
4. The DSHS Region 11 Zoonosis Control Program will provide shipping of the mosquitoes to the DSHS Arbovirus Laboratory **at no cost to the submitter**.
5. Arbovirus results are sent to the jurisdiction submitter who provided the mosquitoes. Jurisdictions without a submitter identification number can request their own submitter number or they may submit mosquito specimens using the Regional 11 Zoonosis Control Program's submitter identification number.

## South Texas Monthly Mosquito Roundup Submission Dates:

- Tuesday, May 13, 2025
- Tuesday, June 17, 2025
- Tuesday, July 15, 2025
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025
- Tuesday, September 16, 2025
- Wednesday, October 15, 2025

For more information on the South Texas Monthly Mosquito Roundup, please contact the Zoonosis Control Program at (956) 444-3212 or your designated mosquito depot.

### Laredo to Rio Grande City Relay



## Mosquito Depots Contact Information:

[DSHS Region 11 Zoonosis Control Program Office](#)  
Dr. Ronald Tyler, DVM, MS  
Zoonosis Control Veterinarian  
601 West Sesame Drive, Harlingen, Texas 78550  
Phone: (956) 444-3222  
Email: [HSR11.Zoo@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:HSR11.Zoo@dshs.state.tx.us)  
**Close Time: 3:00 pm**

[City of Kingsville Health Department](#)  
Emilio H. Garcia  
Health Director  
3421 N. FM 1355, Kingsville, Texas 78364  
Phone: (361) 592-3324  
Email: [healthdirector@cityofkingsville.com](mailto:healthdirector@cityofkingsville.com)  
**Close Time: 11:30 am**

[Cameron County Public Health](#)  
Gustavo Olivares, Environmental Health Director  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Environmental Health Program  
1390 W. Expressway 83, San Benito, TX 78586  
Phone: (956) 247-3599  
Email: [environmental.health1@co.cameron.tx.us](mailto:environmental.health1@co.cameron.tx.us)  
**Close Time: 2:00 pm**

[Hidalgo County Health & Human Services](#)  
Salvador Solis, Epidemiologist  
Hidalgo County Health and Human Services  
Environmental Division  
1304 S 25th Avenue, Edinburg, TX 78539  
Phone: (956) 383-2426 ext. 7424  
Email: [salvador.solis@hchd.org](mailto:salvador.solis@hchd.org)  
**Close Time: 12:30 pm**

[Willacy County Emergency Medical Services](#)  
Raul Torres  
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator  
693 South 7th Street,  
Raymondville, Texas 78580  
Phone: (956) 689-5456  
Email: [willems@prontonet.net](mailto:willems@prontonet.net)  
**Close Time: 1:00 pm**

[Rio Grande City Code Enforcement Department](#)  
Antonio Cantu  
Planning Director  
5332 E. Highway 83  
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582  
Phone: (956) 488-8728  
Email: [acantu@cityofrgc.com](mailto:acantu@cityofrgc.com)  
**Close Time: 11:30 am**



## **CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) IN REGION 11** **Beeville, Texas - June 3-5, 2025**

A free **Animal Control Officer Health and Safety Seminar** is scheduled on **June 3-5** in Beeville, Texas. Animal Control Officers (ACOs) and Professional Sanitarians can earn up to 8 hours of Continuing Education (CE).. Registration deadline is May 23rd and space is limited.

ACO Health & Safety Seminar registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/TS74SS0jQm>



## **RABIES SPECIMEN SUBMISSION**

With warmer weather upon us, please take extra precautions to ensure that your rabies specimens arrive in good condition at the laboratory. Please follow these recommendations when submitting specimens:

1. Immediately remove the head (except bats, which are submitted intact). Do not submit live animals.
2. Chill the specimen, **DO NOT** freeze.
3. Use sufficient refrigerant (do not use dry ice) in a strong, insulated shipping container.
4. Complete G-9 Rabies Specimen Submission Form.
5. Ship specimen by reliable couriers.
6. Notify the laboratory by calling the Rabies Hotline at 1-800-252-8163 with details about the shipment and its expected arrival time.

The DSHS Rabies Lab instructions for packing and shipping website can be found at:  
<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/laboratory-services/programs-laboratories/microbiology-unit/rabies-laboratory/rabies-specimen-shipping-packing>



## Stay healthy around pet reptiles and amphibians!



Reptiles (such as snakes, lizards, and turtles) and amphibians (such as frogs and toads) can sometimes carry germs that can make people sick. These germs can cause illnesses ranging from fever to serious diarrhea.

- Amphibians and reptiles can carry germs even if they look healthy and clean.
- Germs are shed in their droppings and can easily contaminate their bodies and anything in areas where they live and roam, such as their habitat or aquarium tank water.
- These germs can spread to people after they touch these animals or anything in their habitats.

**But there's good news! You can take steps to stay healthy while enjoying your pets.**

## PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM GERMS



### PICK THE RIGHT PET FOR YOUR FAMILY.

Reptiles and amphibians are not recommended for children under 5 years old, adults over 65, or people with weakened immune systems because they are at a greater risk for serious illness from germs that pets can carry.

- Small turtles (shell length under 4 inches) are illegal to sell and own in the US because they are likely to cause Salmonella infection, especially in children.



### KEEP IT CLEAN.

Keep amphibians and reptiles out of kitchens and other areas where food is prepared, served, stored, or consumed.

- Clean habitats and supplies outside the house when possible.
- If you clean supplies indoors, use a laundry sink or bathtub, and thoroughly clean and disinfect the area right after.

### WASH YOUR HANDS.

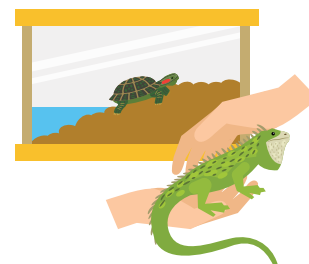
Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching, feeding, or caring for your pets or cleaning their habitats.

- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.



### PLAY SAFELY.

- Don't kiss, snuggle, or hold reptiles and amphibians close to your face.
- Don't let them roam free in your home.
- Don't touch your mouth after handling reptiles and amphibians.
- Don't eat or drink around animals.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
**WWW.CDC.GOV/HEALTHYPETS**



**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

CS294770-E