



MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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~ News Release ~

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(ADDENDUM TO TODAY'S EARLIER PRESS RELEASE)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Petaluma Bird Tests Positive For West Nile Virus

(Cotati), California **November 2**, 2006 the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in Sonoma County again. WNV is a viral disease of birds that can be transmitted to humans by a mosquito that has fed on an infected bird.

Another bird has tested positive for WNV in Petaluma by the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District in cooperation with the California State Health Department. The bird was reported from the following location: One (1) Western Scrub-Jay from the City of Petaluma in the vicinity of Peterson Lane submitted on 10/16/06. **This year, 28 birds have tested positive for West Nile Virus in Marin and Sonoma Counties (21 in Sonoma County and 7 in Marin County) along with 1 Western Gray Squirrel in Marin County, 2 mosquito pools in Marin County, 1 mosquito pool in Sonoma County; 2 horse deaths (1 in Sonoma County and 1 in Marin County), 1 human case in Marin County and three sentinel chicken conversions (2 in Marin County and 1 in Sonoma County).** The detection of WNV in wild birds and other animals indicated the virus is present in both counties.

“As we enter into winter we will see a decline in West Nile Virus and positive birds. This does not mean that residents need to let their guard down in regards to protecting themselves from mosquitoes, they still need to be active in reducing mosquito breeding sites. Before the rains begin they should check their yards

for any containers that have the potential to collect rain water and make sure they are removed or turned over. Many residents have the perception that mosquitoes are not present in the winter which is not true; Marin and Sonoma Counties have mosquitoes that breed year round” said Nizza Sequeira, Assistant Public Relations Director. “In 2005 the District’s first positive bird was collected in January which indicates that the virus is still present in winter months.”

Symptoms of WNV range from mild flu-like conditions, such as fever, headache, and nausea to a stiff neck, restlessness, stupor, delirium, and convulsions. Most cases are mild; however, fatalities can occur in extreme cases.

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District along with Dr. Fred Schwartz, Marin County Public Health Officer and Dr. Leigh Hall, Sonoma County Deputy Health Officer are reminding citizens to take these protective measures:

- Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are most active, between dusk and dawn.
- When engaging in outdoor activities, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and apply insect repellent according to label instructions. Products containing the active ingredient DEET or Picaridin are the most effective, while oil of lemon eucalyptus is another option.
- Screen all windows and make sure the screens are in good repair.
- Cover septic tanks and screen roof vent pipes.
- Identify and eliminate all sources of standing water around your property.
- Remove water from rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, plastic containers.
- Report dead birds.

Online reporting is preferred at <http://westnile.ca.gov>. The toll-free line to report a dead bird is 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473).

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