

Rabies in Virginia – Penelope Smelsor

- a. Overview
 - i. Bullet shaped
 - ii. RNA
 - iii. Variants in US
 - 1. Bat
 - 2. Raccoon
 - 3. Fox
 - 4. Skunk
 - iv. Spreads from the bite of an infected animal
 - 1. Saliva
 - 2. Brain or nervous tissue
- b. Mode of action
 - i. Cycle
 - 1. Travels along nerves
 - 2. Enters brain
 - 3. Enters salivary glands
 - ii. Time between bite and symptoms depend on where on body bite occurred
 - iii. Symptoms
 - 1. Flu-like
 - 2. Hallucinations
 - 3. Insomnia
 - 4. Disorientation
 - 5. Hypersalivation
 - 6. Difficulty swallowing
- c. Human cases
 - i. About 3 cases per year in US
 - ii. Bat variant accounts for ~70% of cases
 - iii. Almost always fatal
- d. Virginia
 - i. 1998
 - 1. Bat variant
 - 2. Inmate
 - ii. 2003
 - 1. Northern VA
 - 2. Raccoon variant
 - iii. 2009
 - 1. Imported
 - 2. Dog variant
- e. Prevention
 - i. Animals must be vaccinated
 - ii. Bites get reported to health department

1. Human
 - a. Locate animal
 - b. Place on 10 day quarantine
 2. Animal exposure
 - a. 45 day quarantine - vaccinated
 - b. 6 month quarantine – unvaccinated
 3. Testing only done with possible exposure
 - a. Report about 500 animals per year in Norfolk
 - b. Average 1-3 positives per year in Norfolk
- iii. Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Project
1. Control rabies in raccoon population
 2. Prevent raccoon rabies from spreading west