

Exercise caution when encountering local wildlife

By Mona Miller, DVM

During the last week of July, a positive rabies test result came back on a bat discovered in a Clayton park. This bat was found sick and brought in for treatment, but died several days later, serving as a reminder to us all that rabies is present everywhere in the continental United States, and to exercise caution when encountering wildlife, whether dead or alive.

Rabies is a deadly virus that infects the central nervous system, and can affect all mammals. Bats, skunk, raccoons, coyotes and foxes are the most common carriers in the United States, and transmit the virus most often through saliva and bite wounds. The virus then travels through the nervous system to the brain. In humans, once symptoms start, the disease is almost always fatal. Luckily, humans who have been exposed to rabies can be successfully treated before signs start, with a series of post-exposure injections. Unfortunately, this is a disease that is not treated in animals – it is always fatal. Diagnosis in animals is made after death, with brain tissue analysis.

The California Department of Public Health 2015 report shows that all 58 counties in California have been rabies areas since 1987. In 2015, 230 animals had confirmed rabies, which is an increase from the previous 10 years, which averaged 205 cases per year. In California, the most common animals carrying rabies are bats (198), followed by skunks (29), cats (2) and coyote (1). Contra Costa County had seven rabies-positive animals – all bats – and there were 13 bats in Alameda County in 2015.

With regular vaccination, rabies is a preventable disease in our pet dogs and cats. The most widely used vaccines are extremely effective and very safe; it is very unlikely that a vaccinated animal bit by a rabid bat will develop the disease. This is a legal mandatory requirement in dogs in the United States. California law now allows for dogs and cats to be vaccinated at 12 weeks old. In my opinion, all cats, even those kept exclusively indoors, should be vaccinated as well. By vaccinating our pets, we provide a protective “firewall” for humans, as well as for the pet. One client of mine described how her friend’s senior cat caught a bat inside the

house. At a recent social gathering, a friend relayed a story about his son touching a dead bat while camping, and had to receive prophylactic rabies exposure vaccinations.

When encountering wildlife, I recommend avoiding handling wild animals. Be especially careful around mammals that seem to behave unusually, such as bats active during daylight, animals approaching without fear, or exhibiting twitching, salivating or seizures. These animals should all be reported to local animal control.

In general, wild animals that are injured or scared will often fight back when they feel cornered, and will resort to biting. Bites often result in bacterial infection, notwithstanding the possibility of rabies as discussed above, and further injury to both the wild animal and the rescuer.

I suggest that you keep your pets current on rabies vaccinations and seek veterinary care if your dog or cat has wounds that could be from a bite. Contra Costa Animal Services recommends that you do not handle wild animals – dead or alive. If you find a dead animal, contact Animal Services directly, or the sheriff’s office if Animal Services is closed.

Further information about rabies can be found at the websites for Contra Costa Health Services and Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://cchealth.org/rabies/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

Lafayette couple celebrates 60 years of marriage



Pictured from left: Dan Lightfoot (son-in-law), Leslie Pedder Lightfoot (daughter), Stan Pedder, Diane Pedder, Brooks Pedder (son), Eliza Pedder (granddaughter), Natalia Pedder (granddaughter), Roseanne Pedder (daughter-in-law), Grant Pedder (grandson), Brooks Lightfoot (grandson), Lexi Lightfoot (granddaughter), Nick DesGeorges (Lexi’s fiancé).

Stan and Diane Pedder celebrated 60 miraculous years of marriage on Saturday, July 22 with their children and grandchildren at Postino Restaurant in Lafayette. The Pedder family originally settled in Lafayette in the 1930s and has stayed loyal to its Lafayette

roots for five generations. Stan has been practicing law here since 1960 and is still active while Diane trained champion quarter horses at the family ranch up until very recently.

Large crowds could eclipse the eclipse itself

By Cathy Dausman

Planning a trip to view the Aug. 21 eclipse from up north? If you like crowds, this will be your lucky day. The 2017 solar eclipse reaches its first U.S. landfall mid-morning near Newport, Oregon, before traversing southeast across 13 other states and The Washington Post estimates seven million visitors will crowd the path of totality where 12 million people normally live.

Not only is the event astronomical, but the crowds may well be too. Lamorinda Weekly will recap several Lamorinda resident eclipse experiences in our Sept. 6 issue, but for now Lamorinda travelers should know that Oregon, a state with four million residents, will likely host conservatively one million visitors.

Most will arrive between Aug. 17 and 20 and depart by Aug. 22. Authorities statewide, from local police and fire officials to Oregon State Police and Oregon Department of Transportation management anticipate possible fuel shortages, increased fire danger, communication overload and are planning how to address those concerns.

Fire Chief Larry Goff of suburban Portland’s Lake Oswego says authorities expect between 50,000 and 100,000 visitors at the Oregon coast and tens of thousands more in Central Oregon. He’s been told the drive

between Madras, Oregon, (population approximately 6,700, and inside the path of totality) and Bend, Oregon, (population approximately 91,000 and just outside totality), normally a 45-minute trip might take seven or eight hours Aug. 21, and he worries how a small town and all-volunteer fire department can look after 100,000 guests.

Arriving by air? Portland International Airport Aviation Media Relations Manager Kama Simonds says incoming flights will be 90 to 100 percent full, “especially those originating from the West Coast.” Nearly 400,000 passengers are expected to pass through PDX between Aug. 17 and 22, she says, and the biggest challenge may be rental car return. “It is projected more than 17,000 rental cars will be returned Monday evening and Tuesday – a busy week’s worth of business in a few days,” Simonds says. “We’re reminding folks who have flights to allow plenty of time to get to the airport,” she cautions. Goff says he and other authorities are struggling to filter solid information from rumor, especially when the event is still 12 days out. “It’s a fabulous planning event (for emergency personnel and management) Goff says, but emphasizes, “there’s going to be impact!”

Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir Competes in 2017 Eisteddfod

Submitted by Wendy Waggener



PEBCC Lamorinda residents, from left: Audrey Cleveland, Natalie Ung, Kyle McDonald, Sydney Gong, Phoebe Schmidt and Mia Lim. Photo courtesy Wendy Waggener

Piedmont East Bay Children’s Choir (PEBCC) competed in two categories at the 2017 International Musical Eisteddfod, held July 3-9 in Llangollen, Wales, United Kingdom, winning second place in both the Children’s Folk Song Choir competition and the Senior Children’s Choir competition. The festival, a 70-year-old cultural event that draws participants from around the world,

took place in a massive pavilion, broadcast by the BBC and Llangollen TV. PEBCC competed against and admired other choirs from all parts of the world, with everyone coming together at the end in a parade of nations through the town of Llangollen. The event capped out a two-week trip to England and Wales for PEBCC, with stops in London, Cambridge and Sutton Coldfield.

In Memory

David Pierce



Forever optimistic were words David Pierce applied to every facet of his life. In matters of health, he had battled cancer twice before and triumphed, but despite his indomitable spirit, that third occurrence refused to retreat. Appreciating the extra years he was granted, David lived life to the fullest, while showing kindness and caring for all he met along his journey. For his daughters, Kimberly and Brooke, and his wife, Ellen, life with David was forever broadening--be it adventures with him or new challenges his vocation & endeavors brought.

Following a career in corporate life with GE, 3M and Crown Zellerbach, David began his second career in 1987 in real estate. His clients treasured him for his financial background, real estate expertise and laser-focused caring for their specific needs. David felt privileged to serve. He was past President of Rotary Club of Orinda; past President and Director of Orinda Chamber of Commerce; real estate consultant to Standard & Poors, past Director of Contra Costa Association of Realtors, and past Director of Friends of Big Band Jazz. David’s love of music and support from Orinda Rotary made it possible to bring Big Band music to the Orinda Community Park in the summer.

This year’s event on August 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., is dedicated to David. As David embarked on the final days of his life’s journey, he passed away peacefully at home in Knoxville, TN, cared for and comforted by Ellen, Kimberly, Brooke, son-in-law Tim and granddaughter, Lillian.

Remembrances can be made to: St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memorial & Honor Gifts, P. O. Box 100, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148 or at <https://www.stjude.org/give.html>.

In Memory

Jill Dewey Duckworth

March 5, 1929 – May 30, 2017



Jill Dewey Duckworth, age 88, passed away peacefully at her home in Winchester, Ore., on May 30, 2017. Jill was a native of Toronto, Canada and a longtime resident of Orinda where she was in real estate sales for many years. She is survived by her daughters, Suki Dewey White and Kimberly Michell, son Peter A. Dewey, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her son Richard R. Dewey predeceased her. Jill had a strong connection to the San Francisco Bay. Her final wish was to be scattered in these waters.