



MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

SEP 8 1974

Provisional Statistics

Louisiana Department
Louisiana State Library
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

FROM THE

PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS SECTION

Reported Morbidity
July, 1974

RABID DOG TRAVELS 20 MILES; EXPOSES 11 PEOPLE AND 30 - 35 OTHER DOGS AND CATS

F.E. SYLVEST, B.S., SANITARIAN
Jackson Parish Health Unit

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

This report, submitted by a parish sanitarian, is an excellent example of the type of investigation that should be conducted when a case of rabies is reported. The sanitarian, in this case, may very well have saved the lives of some of the exposed persons through his initiative and persistence in identifying the rabid dog and

exposed individuals. Identification and destruction of other exposed animals probably prevented secondary cases and the risk of additional human exposures. This report also emphasized the unusual ability of a rabid dog to escape capture unless it is well secured, and of the havoc escape can cause.

At 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, June 22, 1974, I received a telephone call from Mrs. Koat Richardson, a deputy sheriff's wife, in Chatham, Louisiana who wanted to know how to refrigerate and keep a dog head so that it could be examined for rabies on the following Monday. I gave her instructions as to how the dog head should be handled, and then asked her several questions about the dog. She told me that the dog had bitten Freddie Joe Capps, Jr. three times and that the dog had bitten several other dogs. After our conversation, I decided that the dog probably had rabies and that I had better handle the dog head myself, so I went to Eros about 24 miles away and got the dog head and refrigerated it at my office. The dog was a large Walker hound, red and white in color and wearing a flea collar and a regular dog collar. The collar bore the name C.R. Long, West Monroe, Louisiana.

On Monday, June 24, I carried the dog head to the Monroe Regional Lab where it was examined and proven positive for rabies. I knew that the dog may have bitten someone before it left home, and that I must find the owner if at all possible. I tried to locate Mr. C.R. Long assuming that he was the owner of the dog. I finally learned that Mr. Long was a patient in the St. Francis Hospital in Monroe, Louisiana. I visited the hospital and located Mr. Long. He was too ill to see visitors, so I talked to Mrs. Long. Mrs. Long said that Mr. Long had never owned any hound dogs but that some months past he had given a bird dog to Mr. Milburn Thompson who lived at Calhoun.

Up to this point, I was only interested in the owner of a red and white Walker hound but since I had no where else to go, I decided to

pursue the Thompson case. Mrs. Long said that I could probably talk to Mr. Thompson if I would go to the Glenwood Hospital in West Monroe since Mr. Thompson was a patient there. I tried to call the Milburn Thompson residence in Calhoun but got no answer. I then visited the hospital and spoke to Mr. Thompson's daughter, Mrs. Gerald Watson.

After giving Mrs. Watson a description of the dog she was almost sure that the dog was owned by her father and that the same dog had bitten her six year old daughter Kristy on the nose on Thursday, June 20.

Mrs Watson and I went to Calhoun where she made several phone calls trying to be sure that the rabid dog was the same dog that had bitten Kristy. Mrs. Watson talked to her sister who was almost sure she had fed the red and white Walker hound on Saturday, June 22. Mrs. Watson and I then visited the dog pen about ten miles away, but no trace of the dog was found. Mrs. Watson and her sister were sure the red and white hound was wearing the Milburn Thompson collar plus a flea collar. Mrs. Watson asked whether or not the rabid dog was wearing a flea collar, and I told her that it was. The description of the dog plus the flea collar was proof enough for her. She decided to take Kristy to the doctor to begin anti-rabies treatment. She mentioned a few places where the dog had been seen. When she left I was alone to try to prove that the rabid dog was the one that had bitten Kristy. To do this it was necessary to determine how the Thompson dog collar became a C. R. Long dog collar.

I picked up the route traveled by the dog at the LSU Experiment Station, in Calhoun, where it was seen and the dog collar checked on Thursday, June 20, 1974, and bore the name M.A. Thompson. The dog tried to bite Jimmy Smith, when he checked the collar. He let the dog go. The dog then went to Watson's Truck Stop in Calhoun, where they tied the dog but it stayed tied only a short time before it broke loose. The dog then went to Gerald Watson's house and Mrs. Watson let the dog in the house. This is when the dog bit Kristy on the nose. She then put the dog in the utility room where it

almost wrecked the room, pulling the door facing from the wall and door frame. She tried to feed the dog and noticed that it had considerable trouble trying to eat. The dog also fought with two of her dogs.

When Mr. Watson came home he took the dog to the dog pen about 10 miles away and tied it. The dog stayed tied only a short time before it broke loose, this time breaking the collar. A hired hand saw the dog loose and tried to tie him. This is when the C.R. Long dog collar was put on the dog. The dog also bit the hired hand on the arm. He said he had to pry his jaws apart to get loose from the dog.

The dog then went about a mile to the home of Louis Thompson. Mr. Thompson stated that the dog was most affectionate, licking him vigorously on the arm and left without causing trouble. He later returned and attacked several dogs and cats and bit Mr. Thompson's 17 year old son Louis, Jr., on the leg.

The rabid dog was then traced through the Roberson Community, about 5 miles from Eros, where the dog was seen by several people and was known to have bitten several dogs. This was on Friday, June 21. Late on the same afternoon the dog was in Eros and had traveled about 15 miles. In Eros, the dog bit seven or eight dogs and then was not seen again until Saturday morning when it went about one mile northeast of Eros and fought with two dogs. It then returned to near Eros, fought two other dogs and disappeared. The dog was next seen at Freddie Joe Capps' residence, where it fought a puppy. Mr. Capps ran the dog off. A few minutes later the dog came back and attacked another puppy. This time when Mr. Capps tried to run the dog off, it attacked him, biting him on the hand, the forehead, and the lip. Mr. Capps said the only way he could stop the dog was to kill him, so he cut the dog's throat with his pocket knife.

The rabid dog traveled about 20 miles, and bit at least 30 to 35 other dogs and cats. Eleven people are now taking anti-rabies vaccine and 29 dogs and cats are known to have been destroyed because of exposure to the dog.

SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES

(By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS Reported Morbidity July, 1974	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIOUS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED	HEPATITIS B	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RUBELLA*	SEVERE UNDERNUTRITION	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	MEASLES	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1973	71	0	12	4	409	86	350	30	10	31	99	33	155	6	103	3	84	13609	498
TOTAL TO DATE 1974	89	0	13	3	375	131	332	30	16	20	58	17	77	9	91	1	12	14911	391
TOTAL THIS MONTH	35	0	1	2	74	21	51	3	9	3	0	0	18	5	19	0	0	2509	61
ACADIA																			13
ALLEN																			4
ASCENSION																			2
ASSUMPTION	1																		5
AVOUELLES																			15
BEAUREGARD							1												4
BIENVILLE																			5
BOSSIER					1		4			1									17
CADDO					8		1			2									172
CALCASIEU					1		2	1											92
CALDWELL																			2
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA							1												
CLAIBORNE							1												7
CONCORDIA																			
DESOTO													1						18
EAST BATON ROUGE			1		2	1	1								2				162
EAST CARROLL																			3
EAST FELICIANA																			1
EVANGELINE					1														2
FRANKLIN																			4
GRANT																			4
IBERIA					2			1											5
IBERVILLE																			18
JACKSON																			8
JEFFERSON	3				8	1	7	1	5				1		5				139
JEFFERSON DAVIS																			5
LAFAYETTE	1				1														24
LAFOURCHE	1				3	1	4												16
LASALLE																			
LINCOLN					3														54
LIVINGSTON															1				6
MADISON																			8
MOREHOUSE																			19
NATCHITOCHE					1				2										32
ORLEANS	27				13	15	13		2				12	1	8				970
OUACHITA					6		3								1				89
PLAQUEMINES														4					2
POINTE COUPEE																			
RAPIDES					1										2				102
RED RIVER																			2
RICHLAND							4												8
SABINE					2														2
ST. BERNARD					9	2							1						8
ST. CHARLES	1						1												6
ST. HELENA					3														2
ST. JAMES																			7
ST. JOHN	1																		4
ST. LANDRY					1		1												42
ST. MARTIN							2												5
ST. MARY						1	1												12
ST. TAMMANY					1								1						43
TANGIPAHOA					1		2												49
TENSAS																			2
TERREBONNE																			17
UNION																			14
VERMILION					3		1												7
VERNON					3		1						2						176
WASHINGTON																			15
WEBSTER				2															21
WEST BATON ROUGE																			7
WEST CARROLL																			6
WEST FELICIANA																			20
WINN																			2
OUT OF STATE																			3

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome
 From January 1 through July 31, 1974, the following cases were also reported: 3-Brucellosis; 1-Malaria (contracted outside the U.S.A.)