



**MOSQUITO and VECTOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
of Santa Barbara County**

**DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**November 2018**

**Live Mosquito-Borne Virus Surveillance**

No mosquito trapping surveys were conducted in November as the 2018 mosquito trapping season has ended. Staff has started monitoring sites where standing water has accumulated after recent rains.

**West Nile Virus Dead Bird Submissions**

Five Dead Bird Hotline calls were investigated. Samples were collected and submitted from 3 of the carcasses. Results were negative for two samples while results are pending for the other submission. No West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been detected in Santa Barbara County in 2018, to date. In California, there have been 189 human cases of WNV infection reported from 31 counties this year, including 7 new cases that were reported for the week ending November 30.

**St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Activity**

No human cases of St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) disease in California were reported in November. SLEV activity has never been confirmed in Santa Barbara County.

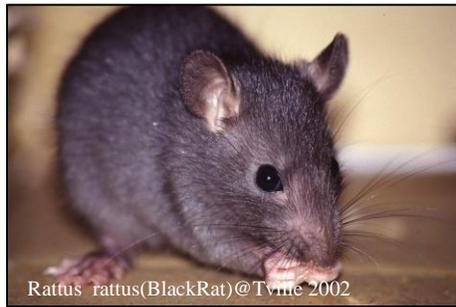
**Zika Virus and Invasive *Aedes* Mosquito Update**

As of December 7, there have been 56 travel-associated Zika virus infections in California this year; none have been reported from Santa Barbara County. No yellow fever mosquitoes *Aedes aegypti*, or Asian tiger mosquitoes, *Ae. albopictus*, have ever been detected in Santa Barbara County, to date.

**Sentinel Chicken Flocks**

The District maintains five sentinel chicken flocks located at the Carpinteria Sanitary District, Goleta Sanitary District, U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station on Paradise Road, Solvang City Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Mission Hills Community Services District.

Results for blood samples collected in late October, but not available for last month's report, came back in early November as negative for WNV, SLEV, and Western Equine encephalitis virus (WEE) seroconversions. Beginning in November and continuing through March, the chicken flocks will be sampled once every 4 weeks due to reduced mosquito activity. Blood samples were taken in mid-November and all samples submitted tested negative for the presence of WNV, SLEV and WEE. The flock at the ranger station was retired and adopted by a nearby resident.



### **Roof rat, *Rattus rattus***

This rat species prefers to nest in large shrubs and trees, including palms and dense ivy. Roof rats are very agile climbers and can scale fences and textured walls with ease. They can enter buildings through openings as small as ½ inch and can chew through soft materials such as expanding foam, plastic and wood. Wire screen makes a good protective covering and steel wool is an excellent material for plugging holes. Rats also can enter buildings through pipes (including those to the toilet) and dryer vents that are not completely shut. Oranges and avocados are among the roof rat's favorite foods but they also feed on other fruits, berries, nuts, pet food, compost scraps, bird feed, snails and slugs. Roof rats harbor many types of harmful pests and pathogens including fleas and rat mites, and bacteria that cause salmonellosis, leptospirosis and rat bite fever.