

MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO AND VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. 94931 (707) 285-2200 FAX: 285-2210 www.msosquito.com

~ News Release ~

Contact: *Jim Wanderscheid, District Manager*
Office: (707)285-2200 Cell: 707-974-0768
E-mail: jimw@msosquito.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2007

District Confirms First West Nile Virus Positive Mosquitoes In Sonoma County for 2007

(Cotati), California September 13th, 2007-The first West Nile virus (WNV) positive mosquitoes for 2007 in Sonoma County have been found in the eastern area of Healdsburg. The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) is increasing surveillance and control of local mosquito populations in response to the detection of WNV in the area. The District is urging the public to continue to look for and eliminate standing water in their yards, stock permanent ponds with mosquitofish and protect themselves from mosquito bites. Most importantly, if you are having a mosquito problem call us, we are here to help.

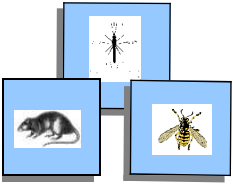
West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on an infected bird.

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:

- Be aware of 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.
- 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 including rain gutters, boat covers, tires, tree holes, and plastic containers.
- Report mosquito problems to the District at 1-800-231-3236
- Report all dead birds and squirrels.

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



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2007 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 2 equine cases, 1 human, 1 bird and 1 mosquito pool have tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: No detection of WNV

2006 West Nile virus activity:

Sonoma County: 21 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 2 mosquito pools, 0 humans, 1 sentinel chicken tested positive for West Nile virus.

Marin County: 8 dead birds, 1 equine fatality, 3 mosquito pools, 1 human, 1 Western Gray squirrel, 2 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus.

**Mosquito pool: Mosquitoes are trapped and collected from the field. The collected females are then pooled together by species. Each pool contains a minimum of one to a maximum of 50 mosquitoes.*