

Health Officer Annual Report for 2005

The Town of Lincoln has kept me busy this year. I have answered approximately 40 calls on a variety of matters. These have included:

- day care inspections
- trash problems resulting from the bears
- swimming pools complaints
- food poisonings
- rust and oil spills in the river
- bed bugs
- dead birds
- skunk problems

I have also issued several tickets based on violations of the Town's wild animal ordinance.

This past summer New Hampshire has seen a rise in the number of cases of both West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The State is working on plans to help New Hampshire communities. Further information can be obtained from the State website at www.dhhs.nh.gov

I shall also post fact sheets at the Town Hall and the Library Public Library about prevention and conditions as they happen. The main defense for the West Nile Virus is to use insect repellants containing DEET and to cover exposed skin whenever possible.

The next area of concern is influenza, which is different from the avian flu. An important defense is to get a flu

shot. Encourage washing of the hands and keep sick family members home from school or work as a protection to others. If someone in your family runs a high fever, you should call your doctor.

The avian flu is the flu we are hearing about primarily due to outbreaks in Southeast Asia. The World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control are carefully monitoring this flu. The websites for information on avian flu are: www.cdc.gov or www.who.int/en

Although we have not had any problems in this community with avian flu, the public is advised to never touch a dead bird. The Town of Lincoln, in partnership with the State of New Hampshire, is working on a plan to deal with an avian flu outbreak. When this plan is ready, you will be notified through the Town offices and by various other means.

If you have any health or safety concerns in the Town of Lincoln, feel free to contact me by calling Town Hall at 745-2757. Please be specific about your concern and provide a name and phone number for me to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha S. Talbot
Health Officer