



# Alabama Vector Management Society

www.alabamavms.org

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## Thank you for making the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting a success.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the Alabama Vector Management Society was held March 26<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup> at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. The audience enjoyed a variety of topics such as "Widow Spiders", "Rodent Control", "Mosquito Repellents", "Delusory Parasitosis", and "The Hosts of Alabama Mosquitoes". For the fourth consecutive year, time

was set aside for "Snapshots from around the State". In this session, individuals who are involved in vector control from different parts of the state gave an update on vector control challenges they faced during the past year. A highlight of the meeting was the tour of US Space & Rocket Center. Thanks to all of the exhibitors who sponsored the dinner.

## A new series in the AVMS newsletter : "Vector Highlights"

*Vector Highlights* is a new series which will appear in each issue of the AVMS newsletter, beginning with this issue. You can find the first installment of this series on page 3 of this issue. *Vector Highlights* will showcase one of Alabama's many vector species in each edition. Topics to be covered by the series include the biology of the vector, distribution, associated diseases, and identification. The purpose of this series is to familiarize the readership of the AVMS newsletter to the diversity of vectors occurring in our great state. We welcome contributions or suggestions from readers of the AVMS newsletter and we hope that you enjoy the very first edition of the series.



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### Dates To Remember:

#### **March 17-19, 2009**

AVMS 20th Annual Meeting  
Mobile, AL

#### **April 5-9, 2009**

AMCA 75th Annual Meeting  
New Orleans, LA



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## Dog Flu

From Wikinews

Dogs are normally resistant to most flu strains. Since about 2000, a new strain of dog flu has been spreading in America, and there's no vaccine to prevent it.

To limit exposure to the flu, some dog owners are avoiding public places like dog shows and parks. Since the flu can spread where groups of dogs are housed, some dog owners are nervous about the practice of putting their pets in kennels. According to Edward Dubovil, director of the animal virology lab at Cornell University, 100% of dogs appear to be susceptible to infection by this new flu strain. It is estimated that 1-5% of infected dogs are dying from this flu strain. The symptoms of dog flu are akin to those of kennel cough, a more common and less serious illness.

Starting in 2004 there have been many outbreaks of flu at dog race tracks. Since early in 2004, researchers have been working to characterize the type of flu that is infecting dogs. In September of 2005 it was reported that this dog flu strain had crossed over from horses to dogs. This type of flu virus has been infecting horses for at least 40 years. It is expected that existing flu vaccines for horses can soon be adapted for use in dogs.

The spread of a horse flu virus to dogs is an example of what could happen with bird flu. Currently the bird flu is transmitted from birds to humans but does not spread easily from person to person. The new strain of dog flu shows signs of having been genetically modified from the original horse-preferring virus strain making it easy to transmit from dog to dog. Future genetic modifications of bird flu could better adapt it to humans and allow it to spread from person to person. The chance of such viral evolution can be reduced by limiting exposure of humans to bird flu.

At this time, the new dog flu virus strain does not seem to be a danger for humans. However, humans will be monitored for signs of infection by new genetic variants of the dog flu. Due to the close physical association between pet dogs and humans, a flu strain that could jump from dogs to humans would be of great concern. Recently evolved virus strains that jump from one species to another are often particularly lethal because the newly infected species may have little or no immunity to the new virus strain.

Story first appeared Saturday, October 15, 2005

**From Wikinews, the free news source you can write!**

[http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Dog\\_flu\\_spreads\\_across\\_the\\_US](http://en.wikinews.org/wiki/Dog_flu_spreads_across_the_US)

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## Vector Highlights



### *Aedes vexans*

#### “The eastern floodwater mosquito”

*Aedes vexans* is widely distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada. In Alabama, this common mosquito can be found in virtually any habitat, from swampy wetlands to urban areas. *Aedes vexans* has a propensity for feeding on humans and other mammals. They seek out their hosts in the twilight hours. Because it is prone to feeding on humans, *Ae. vexans* has been suspected of transmitting many human pathogens. Although several viruses, such as West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis virus, have been detected in wild *Ae. vexans* females, no conclusive evidence exists to incriminate this species in the transmission of a human disease agent. *Aedes vexans* is, however, a vector of dog heartworm.

Females are medium-sized, brown and white mosquitoes. They are easily recognized by the narrow pale bands on their hind legs, plain brown thorax and two basal white chevrons (upside-down triangles) on each abdominal segment. Wings are without patterns. Adults rest in grassy vegetation. Host-seeking females of *Ae. vexans* are readily collected with CO<sub>2</sub>-baited light traps and by using a sweep net in the grassy vegetation where they rest.

Larvae are pale bodied, with straw-colored siphon and head. They occur in a variety of permanent and temporary bodies of water, but are most common in ephemeral flood-water pools. The temporary nature of their larval habitat makes it necessary for larvae of *Ae. vexans* to develop quickly. In some cases they can complete their development (from egg to adult) in as little as a week. Larvae of *Ae. vexans* often exhibit an interesting behavior in which they congregate together in a tight group which resembles a dark grey ball suspended in the water. This behavior, termed “balling” because of the spherical shape of the mass of larvae, is presumably a defense from predators.

Adulticiding and larviciding are both effective means of controlling populations of *Ae. vexans*.



Distribution of *Aedes vexans* (in grey) in the U.S. and Canada



Adult female of *Aedes vexans* blood-feeding. Note the small pale bands encircling the legs.

Check out our web page and you'll find interesting articles on bed bugs, mosquito's, snakes, mites and other pests. You'll also find links to other sites that may be of interests to you. Be sure to check out the web page for pictures of our last meeting in Huntsville. You never know, you may find a picture of yourself.

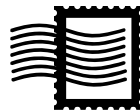
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We are in the process of making the Newsletter available electronically and hope to speed delivery of the Newsletter and eventually reduce printing and mailing costs. Please let us know if you would like to receive the electronic version or not by sending us your e-mail.

[admin@alabamavms.org](mailto:admin@alabamavms.org)

We want to hear from you! Send us an e-mail with an article pertaining to what your City, County or agency has been doing or problems you have been facing and we'll publish it in our next news letter.



Please send comments or suggested articles to:

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301 Funchess Hall  
Auburn University, AL 36849  
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## CODE OF ETHICS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY



Preamble: The purpose of the Alabama Vector Management Society is to promote the management of public health pests and arthropod vectors of disease, provide for the educational and scientific advancement of members, encourage scientific research in vector management and public health pests, promote an exchange of information among members, and to extend and develop public awareness and interest in the discipline.

Public health pest and vector management provides services that are extremely important to the health, welfare and progress of society. Those employed in the public health pest and vector management profession have the responsibility to render effective and professional service to humanity, in keeping with high standards of ethical conduct. Therefore, in striving to advance

and maintain the honor and dignity of the profession, the Alabama Vector Management Society (AVMS) has established the following code to define the conduct and ethics due the profession. This code is binding on the membership of the AVMS.

- AVMS members will use their knowledge and skill for the betterment of human welfare.
- Members will, at all times, strive to maintain the public trust, and advance the standards and principles established by the AVMS.
- Members will cooperate in the exchange of information and technology for the growth and progress of the public health and vector management profession and the AVMS.
- Members will not cause dishonor to the Society through their actions while representing the AVMS.
- Members will comply with all laws and regulations that apply to our science and profession.
- Members will promote solidarity, harmony and support among members and fellow workers. They will not undermine, vilify, berate or otherwise intentionally injure the work, accomplishments, efforts or professional reputation of another.
- Members will not conduct or in any way participate in a fallacious review of the work of a fellow worker or other member.

The AVMS is grateful to have the support and sponsorship from industries. Below is a list of sustaining members.

### 2006 AVMS Sustaining Members:

| Affiliation                            | Phone        |
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| Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Inc. | 800-323-5727 |
| Dynamic Aviation                       | 540-828-6070 |
| Forshaw Distribution Inc.              | 706-561-7490 |
| Mosquito Control, Inc.                 | 504-366-0084 |
| Univar USA                             | 251-666-5995 |
| Wellmark/Zoecon                        | 256-527-9904 |

# ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Jeff Beck  
**Montgomery CHD**  
**3060 Mobile Highway**  
**Montgomery, AL**  
**36108**

- PRE- REGISTRATION (BEFORE MARCH 1, 2009)                      \$75.00  
 REGISTRATION (AFTER MARCH 1, 2009 OR ON SITE)              \$100.00  
 STUDENT REGISTRATION    \$25.00  
AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

**For Vender Information Contact:**

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

*Alabama Vector Management Society*

I UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A MEMBER OF THE AVMS, I AM EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE AVMS CODE OF ETHICS.

\*Registration/Membership dues are for AVMS membership year 2009 ALABAMA VECTOR MANAGEMENT SOCIETY



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