

Santa Clara County Vector Control District

Operations and Surveillance Report

August 2018



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District Mission

To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes, and to assist the public in resolving problems with rodents, wildlife, and insects that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury to humans in the County.

Services Provided

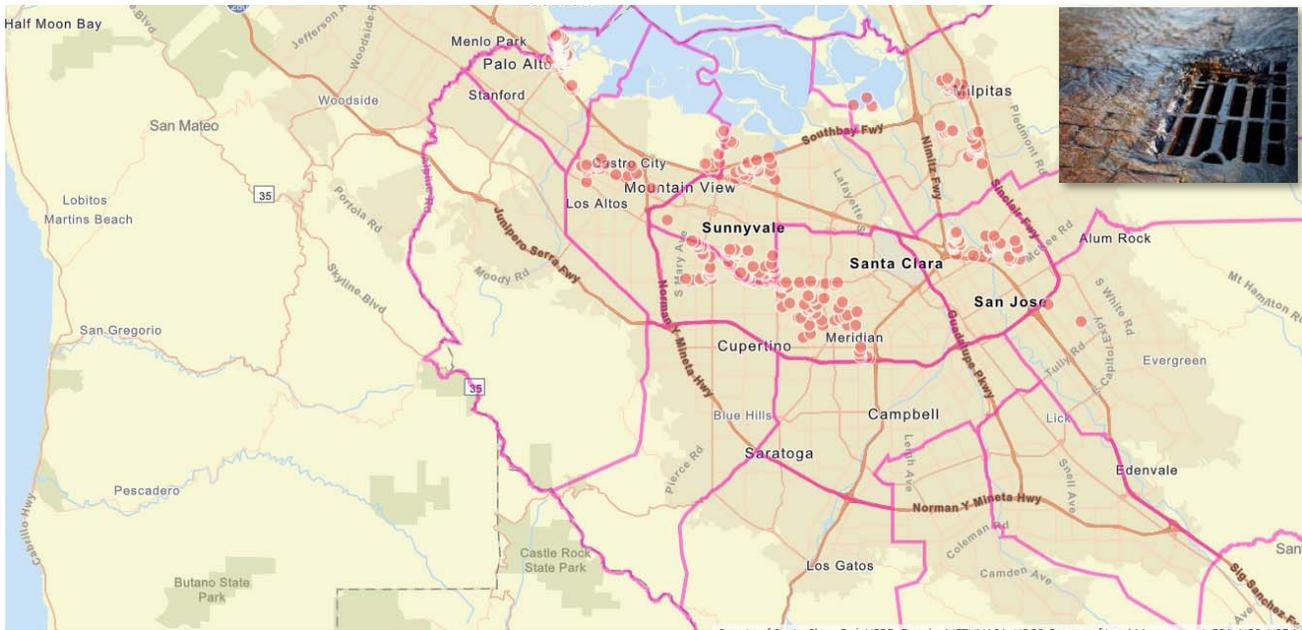
- Detection of the presence/prevalence of vector-borne diseases, such as plague, West Nile virus, rabies, and Lyme disease, through ongoing surveillance and testing
- Routine inspections and treatment, as necessary, of known mosquito and rodent sources
- Response to customer initiated service requests for identification, advice, and/or control measures for mosquitoes, rodents, wildlife, and miscellaneous invertebrates (ticks, yellowjackets, cockroaches, bees, fleas, flies, etc.)
- Free educational presentations for schools, homeowner associations, private businesses, civic groups, and other interested organizations
- Free informational material on all vectors and vector-borne diseases

Manager's Message

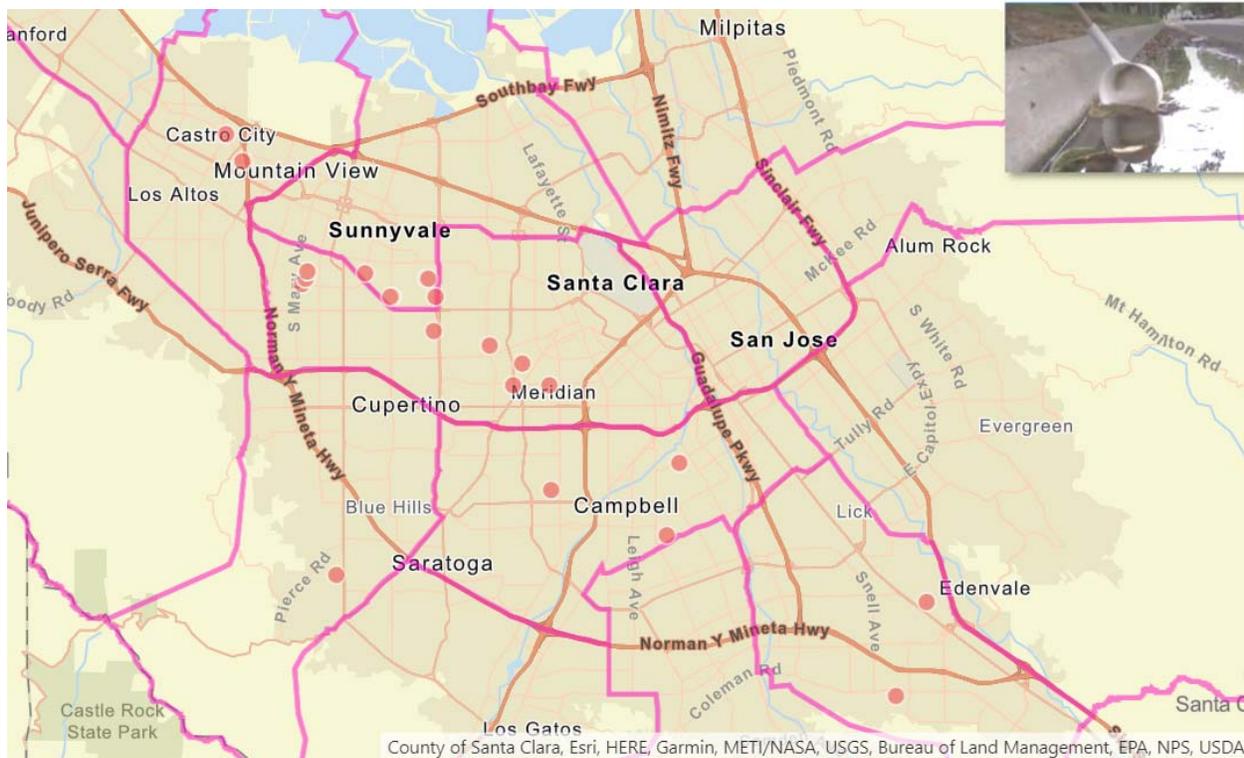
Mosquitofish is the common name for *Gambusia affinis* and is a small fish related to common guppies. They are called mosquitofish because mosquito larvae are their primary diet and they can eat 100 to 500 mosquito larvae per day. Vector Control District delivers free limited numbers of mosquitofish for residents' pools or ponds. To request mosquitofish, please call or visit our website.

(408) 918-4770
sccvector.org

Operations Report: Curbs and Catch Basins

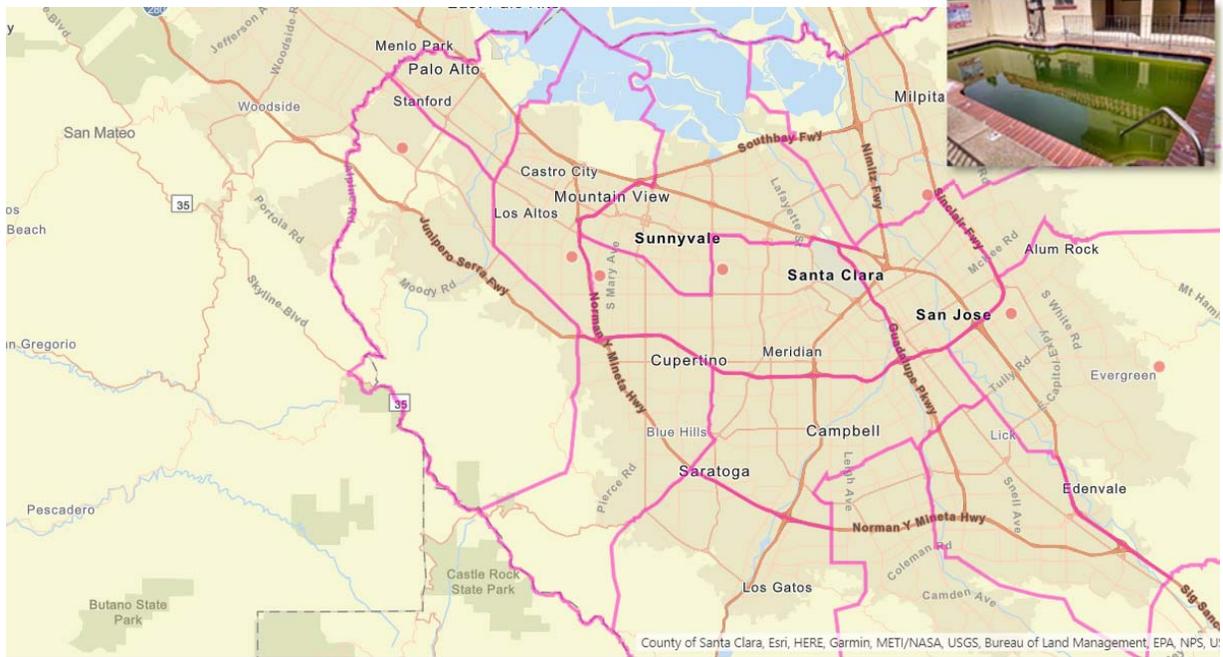


The District employs seasonal staff to check and treat mosquitoes in flooded street stormwater catch basins. These sites hold standing water due to rainfall or urban runoff from domestic water usage. **During August, our staff inspected 6,638 basins and treated 582 of them, mainly in hot zones where West Nile virus was detected from bird or mosquito samples.**



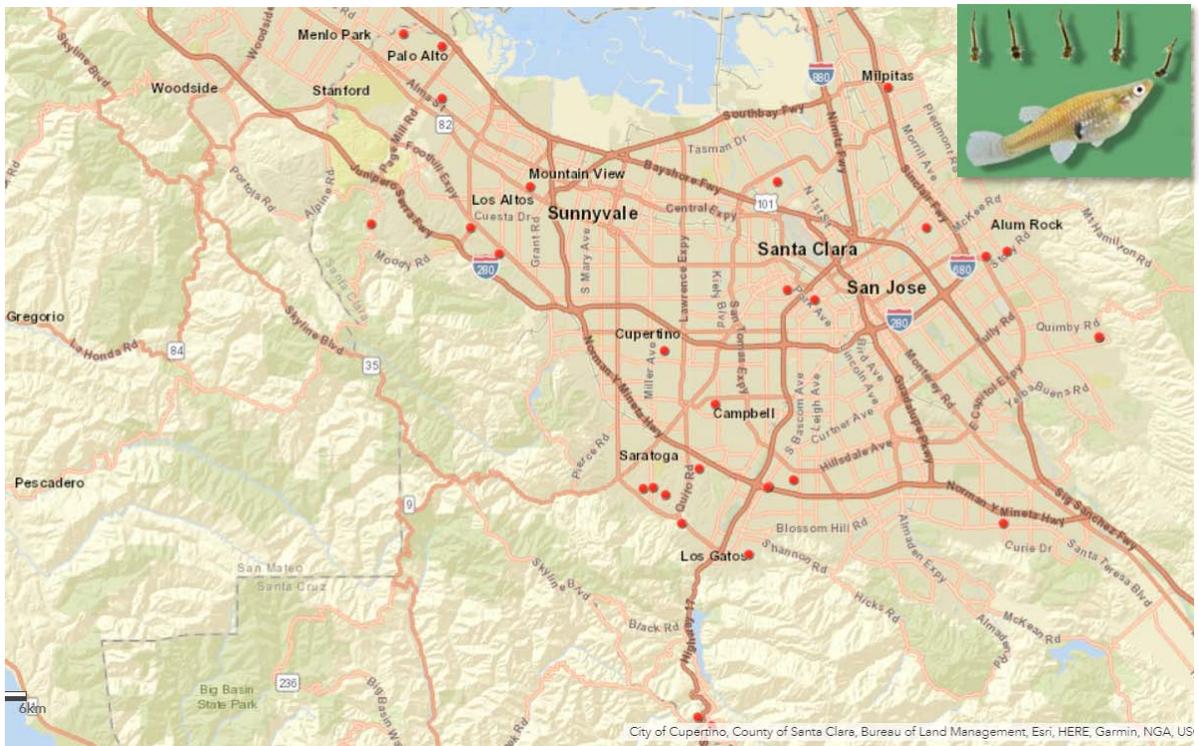
The District also employs seasonal staff to check and treat mosquitoes in flooded curbs. These sites hold standing water because of obstructions or depressions in the curbs. **Mosquito larvae were found and treated in 26 of the inspected curbs during August.**

Operations Report: Neglected Pools



Stagnant water in neglected swimming pools can produce mosquitoes and cause a local nuisance to neighborhoods. The District inspected and treated 10 pool locations during August.

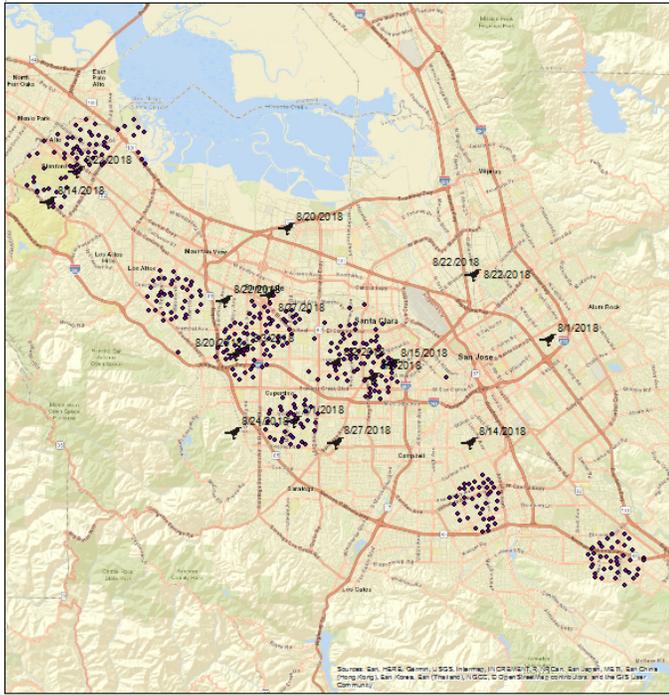
Operations Report: Mosquitofish Service Requests



The mosquitofish is a topminnow (*Gambusia affinis*) that is a natural predator of larval and pupal stage mosquitoes. District staff deliver free fish for stocking backyard sites like fountains, ponds, and rain barrels. A total of 30 mosquitofish service requests were fulfilled during August.

Carbon Dioxide Baited Traps

Mosquito Collections for WNV Testing



Sampling for arthropod-borne virus (Arbovirus) via dead birds is continuous throughout the year, but mosquito trapping is primarily from April through October when mosquitoes are most active. In August, mosquito trappings targeted the cities of Cupertino, Los Altos, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and San Jose.

Mosquito Species	Count of females - mixed
<i>Aedes dorsalis</i>	4
<i>Anopheles franciscanus</i>	1
<i>Anopheles freeborni</i>	1
<i>Anopheles punctipennis</i>	1
<i>Culex pipiens</i>	204
<i>Culex tarsalis</i>	136
<i>Culiseta impatiens</i>	1
<i>Culiseta incidens</i>	116
<i>Culiseta inornata</i>	2
<i>Culiseta particeps</i>	1
(blank)	0
Grand Total	467

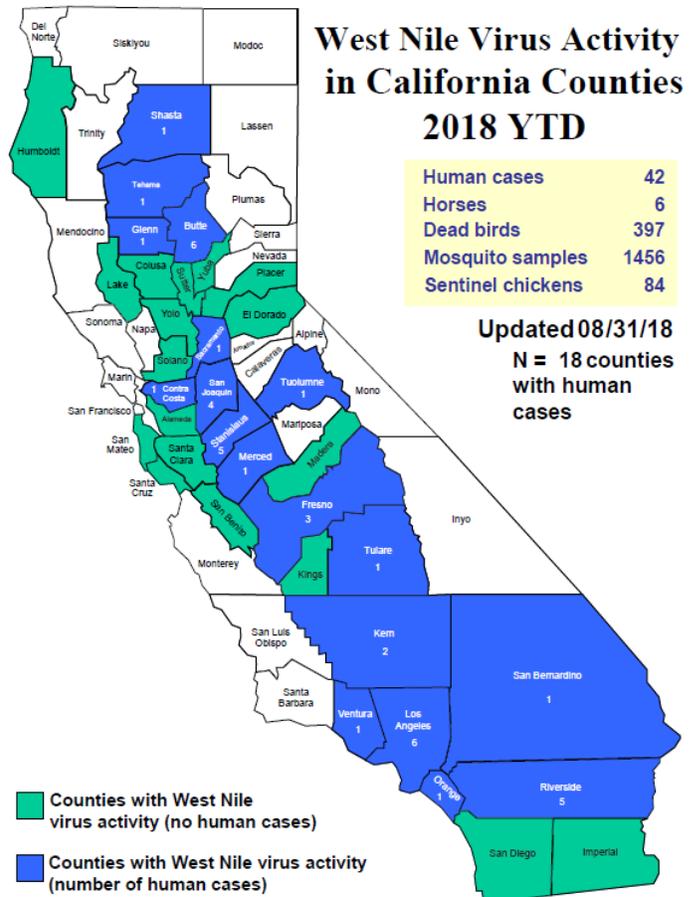
West Nile Virus Update

Statewide

As of August 31, 397 dead birds have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in California (see map at right). At this time last year, 171 positive birds had been reported in 26 counties. Thus far in 2018, 1,456 positive mosquito samples were reported to the state. To date, 42 human cases have been reported in 2018.

Santa Clara County

As of August 29, 316 dead birds have been reported in Santa Clara County. Of the reported birds, 91 have been tested for WNV and 39 were found positive. The Sentinel Chickens Program has four positive chickens in two flocks: one in Palo Alto and three in Sunnyvale. Fortunately no human cases have been detected in the County.



Public Service Requests

Service Request	Number
Adult mosquito treatment	1
Bats	9
Bed Bug	4
Bees	2
Cockroaches	5
Coyotes	16
Midges/ Gnats	2
Mosquito Fish Requests	36
Mosquitoes	38
Neglected Pools	15
Opossums	18
Raccoons	32
Rodents	119
Skunks	13
Snakes	2
Squirrels	3
Wasps and Yellowjackets	25
Other Invertebrates	7
Other Vertebrates	8
Other Vector Issues	12
Grand Total	367

Popular Service Requests

During August, there were 367 calls for service among a wide range of issues, including rodents, mosquitoes, requests for mosquitofish, stinging insects (bees and yellow-jackets), and wildlife. Services provided include home inspections for rodents or wildlife and phone consultations. Calls regarding rodents and mosquitoes were the most frequent.

Insect Identification

Nine samples were submitted by residents for identification during August including: rat mites, springtails, booklice, and cockroaches.

Invasive Cockroach Detected in County

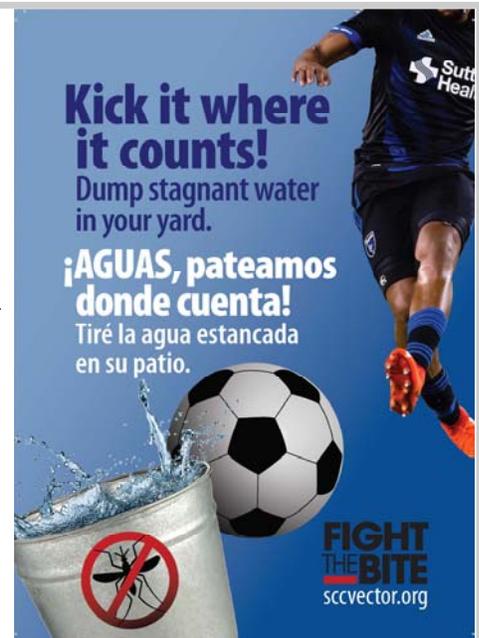
During August, a typical cockroach complaint, where the requesting party found them indoors, resulted in the detection of an invasive species, *Blatta lateralis* or Turkestan cockroach. The location was in Cupertino and specimens were obtained from a water meter box near the residence. That species resembles common cockroaches where the females are similar to the Oriental cockroach and males resemble American cockroaches. Kudos to Regina Williams for making the discovery!



Outreach Programs

Awareness is key when battling to protect the public from vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus and Zika. The Vector Control District uses a myriad of outreach campaigns to educate Santa Clara County residents on how they can protect themselves.

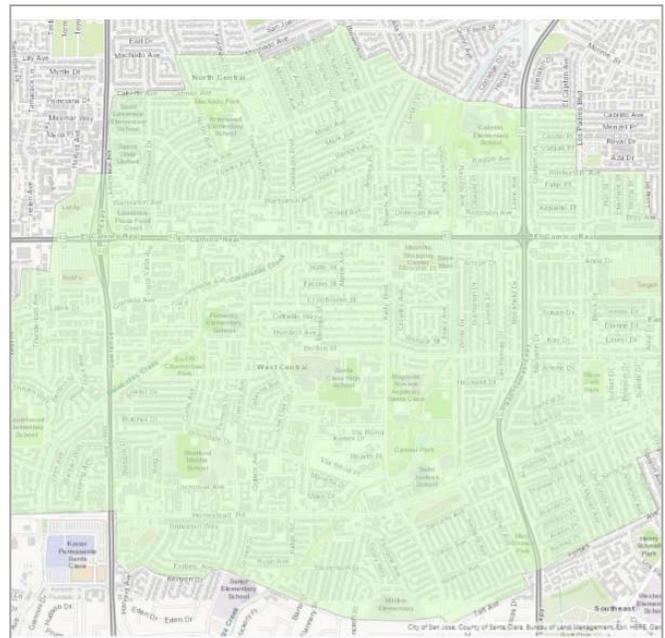
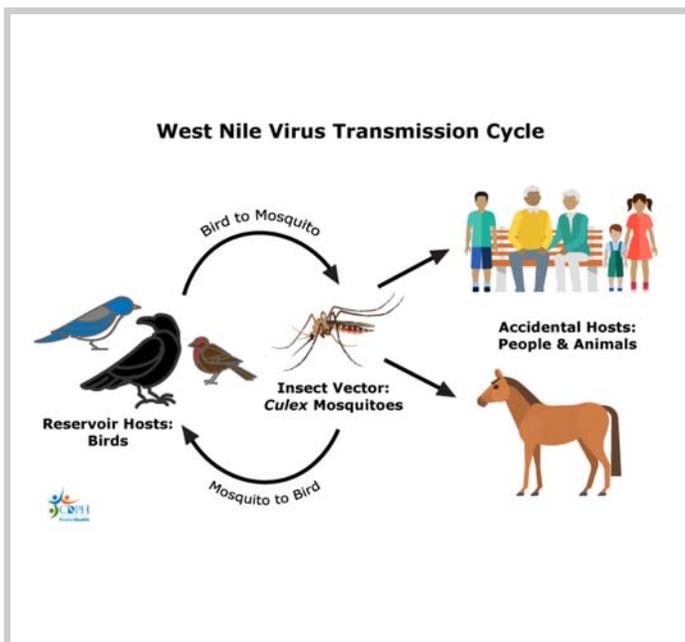
Public service ads can be found on Valley Transportation Authority buses, educational booths are afforded at numerous festivals throughout the County's 15 cities, on-site visits are made at local schools, along with so much more. Thanks to a grant from the Public Health Foundation, there is highly-visible signage inside and outside the stadium at all San Jose Earthquakes games.



West Nile Virus Treatments

Third Adult Mosquito Treatment of 2018

On August 15, the District conducted the third treatment of 2018 to suppress adult mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus. Several birds and mosquito samples were found to be positive in portions of the cities of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara. The treatment was successfully completed during the night to avoid traffic and when pollinators, such as honey bees, are not active. All treatments utilized are approved by the Federal and State Environmental Protection Agencies.





Santa Clara
County Vector
Control District

1580 Berger Dr.
San José, CA
95112

Vector Control History

The Vector Control District was formed in 1988 and is one of 12 special districts located in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area charged with providing vector control per California Health, Safety, and Government Codes. The District is one of six in the State where the County Board of Supervisors acts as the trustee and oversees operations. Funding for District work comes from a county-wide property tax assessment.



"A VECTOR is any animal that can transmit disease to animals or people."