SKUNK ASSISTANCE

Learn how to practice exclusion and prevent attracting wildlife to your home.

Did you know skunks are attracted to a variety of food including eggs, berries, and pet food. Don’t get caught in a tight situation and avoid attracting skunks by:

- Cutting back brush
- Stacking firewood tightly
- Picking up fallen fruit
- Bringing pet food and water inside at night

Visit sccvector.org for more information.
The Santa Clara County Vector Control District (SCCVCD) continues to monitor for diseases such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and hantavirus. Through efforts from our operations and surveillance teams inspecting creeks for black flies and catch basins for mosquito larvae, to our outreach team hosting educational booths at community events; our main goal continues to be maintaining a community that is free of vector-borne diseases.

During May, our team addressed black fly nuisance reports, hosted a larval mosquito identification workshop, released a television outreach campaign educating the public regarding mosquito prevention, and celebrated Lyme Disease Awareness Month through educational social media posts.

Our wildlife team continues to assist the public with wildlife reports, such as a skunk stuck on a fence, coyote and mountain lion sighting reports, and providing educational information and advice to prevent attracting wildlife.

We continue to encourage the public to contact us to report neglected pools, request an educational presentation or booth, or to schedule an inspection for mosquitoes, rodents, and wildlife.

Respectfully,

Nayer Zahiri
A VECTOR is any animal or insect that can transmit diseases to animals or people.
WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE

STATE WIDE
As of June 21, there were 8 counties in California with positive detections for West Nile virus. Only five birds have tested positive statewide this year — suggesting a lighter than normal season for this arbovirus. Studies have show that West Nile virus activity decreases following winters with heavier rainfall. A similar scenario occurred in 2017, when only fifteen positive birds were found in Santa Clara County that year. On the other hand, drought years yield higher West Nile virus activity. In 2014, more than 1,000 positive birds were detected in Santa Clara County alone.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
A total of seven birds have been collected in Santa Clara County as of June 24, 2019 and all have tested negative for West Nile virus, Saint Louis Encephalitis, and Wester Equine Encephalitis.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF WEST NILE VIRUS

REPORT DEAD BIRDS

call 1-877-WNV-BIRD or visit www.westnile.ca.gov
WEST NILE VIRUS SURVEILLANCE IN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

West Nile Virus Activity in California Counties 2019 YTD

- Human cases: 0
- Horses: 0
- Dead birds: 5
- Mosquito samples: 220
- Sentinel chickens: 0

Updated 06/21/19
N = 0 counties with human cases

- **States with West Nile virus activity (no human cases)**
  - San Joaquin
  - Fresno
  - Tulare
  - Kern
  - San Bernardino
  - Riverside
  - San Diego

- **Counties with West Nile virus activity (number of human cases)**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT | CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1580 BERGER DRIVE, SAN JOSE, CA 95112 | (408) 918-4770
WWW.SCCVECTOR.ORG
BLACKFLY NUISANCE ISSUES

MONITORING BLACK FLIES

Black flies (family Simuliidae) are prominent along Coyote Creek in Morgan Hill and Alamitos creek in New Almaden, and similar to mosquitoes, they also irritate residents nearby. Black fly adults bite and feed on blood, and persistently fly in front of the face causing irritation and sometimes an allergic reaction. Larval stage black flies cling to rocks, plants, and other submerged objects in creeks where they feed on microbes.

Most prefer turbulent water, particularly riverbeds with riffles present. Luckily, larval stage black flies can be treated with the same natural occurring larvicide that is used for mosquito larva, Basillus thuringiensis var. israelensis, also known as BTI. The treatment is drifted down stream and can be effective up to a quarter mile. These flies can produce multiple generations during a year and flourish when creeks are flowing and reservoirs are discharging after a rainy winter. Plastic caution tape attached to an anchoring rebar is used to sample immature blackflies (egg, larval, and pupal stages) in the flowing water and when abundant, can blacken the tape with thousands of larvae as seen in the photo to the left.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT

LARVAL MOSQUITO IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

To help refresh staff skills in larval mosquito identification, special workshops were held at the District lab using specimens from the District mosquito colony and field-collected samples. Thirty-five staff members attended separate workshops in small groups, and identified mosquito larva using dissecting microscopes and taxonomic keys. It is important for staff to become proficient in mosquito identification since pesticide application records should include mosquito species information, per the California Department of Public Health Cooperative Agreement. There are about fourteen mosquito species inhabiting the County, and many times more than one species can be found in a single habitat. For example, a neglected swimming pool was recently found to have three species present: *Culex pipiens* (Common House Mosquito), *Culex tarsalis* (Western Encephalitis Mosquito), and *Culiseta incidens* (Cool Weather Mosquito).
GUEST SPEAKERS

STANFORD PRESENTATION

Dr. Alan Launer from Stanford University provided a presentation to all vector staff regarding endangered species found in and around the Stanford campus. Dr. Launer explained Stanford has developed a habitat conservation plan to protect the California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and the common gartersnake all of which are either threatened or endangered species. It is important to partner and learn from local organizations our vector control technicians interact with on a regular basis.

PESTICIDE TRAINING

In May, all vector control staff received a pesticide training. It is essential that vector control staff receive a refresher course regarding the proper use of pesticides, correct storage, and use personal protective equipment. This training is required on a yearly basis and mandated by the State of California, which is listed in Title 3 California Code of Regulations, Section 6724.
OUTREACH PROGRAMS

During the month of May, the District launched another outreach campaign and began educating the public on how to prevent mosquitoes through bus tails with Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), launched a television outreach campaign centralized to County residents, and began bilingual efforts with Spanish and Vietnamese radio stations. Our community outreach efforts saw staff participating in community fairs such as Animal Day in Prusch Park and the Viva CalleSJ fair. Our school education program was high in participation rates with more than 200 students learning about mosquito prevention. Presentations and educational booths are available to schools, community groups, homeowner associations, and other interested parties for FREE. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation or educational booth, please call our Health Education Specialist, at (408) 918-4794.
To detect and minimize vector-borne diseases, to abate mosquitoes, and to assist the public in resolving problems that can cause disease, discomfort, or injury to humans in Santa Clara County.

www.sccvector.org

@sccvcd