

Pike County Health Department

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HomeCare



Across Illinois

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Start Date: 7-12-17

Stop Date: 7-18-17

Contact: Jane Johnson, 217-285-4407 x118

Dead Bird Testing for West Nile Virus

PITTSFIELD, IL – Pike County Health Department (PCHD) will be collecting dead birds to test for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV). Suitable dead birds are forwarded to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Animal Lab for testing. If the bird tests positive, we are able to alert the public and recommend protective measures the public should consider.

An eligible dead bird would be one that has recently died, shows no signs of decomposition, and appears intact with no signs of trauma (such as being driven over, crashing into a window, being killed or chewed upon by a predator). Most bird species are acceptable for testing except eagles, large hawks, owls or waterfowl. If contacted, PCHD would try to pick up the bird on the same day and send it off to the lab. If you wish to collect a specimen, it may be collected in a container, such as a Ziploc bag, and moved to a more secure location. If you choose to collect a dead bird, be sure that the collector's hand is protected by being inside of the collection bag or by using a plastic glove. Once the specimen is collected, please call our office for further instructions.

For more information, contact Jane Johnson at Pike County Health Department, 217-285-4407 x118.

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