

From: [Rollo, Susan \(DSHS\)](#)
To: [Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM](#); [AbdulHamid, Cherissa \(DSHS\)](#); [Sara Wyckoff](#); [Brian Bohl, DVM](#)
Cc: [Jessica Monday, DVM](#); [Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM](#); [OSullivan, Briana \(DSHS\)](#)
Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:50:07 PM

No worries Dr. Dinges, I hate how the emails mesh together on your phone!!

Have a good day,
susan

Susan N. Rollo MS DVM PhD DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
Zoonosis Control Branch
Department of State Health Services
Office: 512-776-3306
Cell: 512-560-6074
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P.O. Box 149347, MC1956
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<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/>

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From: Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Rollo, Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; AbdulHamid, Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>; Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>
Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan, Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Sorry about that! I was responding from the email chain on my phone.

Thanks,

Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, D.V.M.
Executive Director



Office: 512-719-0704

Email: Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov

Texas Animal Health Commission | P.O. Box 12966 | Austin, Texas 78711

From: Rollo, Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:34:31 AM

To: Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; AbdulHamid, Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>; Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan, Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Hey Dr. Dinges, I already answered to that and said she misspoke,
Thanks
susan

Susan N. Rollo MS DVM PhD DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
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From: Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 11:30 AM

To: AbdulHamid, Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>; Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Rollo, Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan, Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>

Subject: Re: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Please leave all recommendations/decisions to test/not to test any /all livestock on the premises for HPAI up to the TAHC.

Thanks,

Lewis R. “Bud” Dinges, D.V.M.

Executive Director

Office: 512-719-0704

Email: Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov

Texas Animal Health Commission | P.O. Box 12966 | Austin, Texas 78711

From: AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:18:32 AM

To: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Rollo,Susan (DSHS)

<Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. “Bud” Dinges, DVM

<Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>;

OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Good morning,

A visit was made to the Hereford property on Saturday 3/15/2025 to further investigate the situation regarding the four positive HPAI cats.

There was a flock of grackles present. As per the owners, the grackles come and go.

Three peacocks and a rooster were present and appeared fine.

The beef cattle were moved from the area (near the barn) to different area when the skunks began to die.

The beef cattle are pregnant, and due for a pregnancy check this week. No lactating cattle present.

The neighbour is +/- 3 miles away and have poultry and cats.

These cats are known to visit the affected property.

The owners appreciated raccoons dying +/- 1 month ago, followed by the four skunks, then the cats en mass.

These animals have been seen eating from the communal bag of cat food.

Cat food has been collected for testing if needed.

They attempted to have the LRCA come out and investigate the skunks for rabies, as they were observed circling and unable to stand.

Unsure why the LRCA did not initially go out.

There were three remaining cats in the barn and a fourth was found deceased in the cattle pen directly adjacent to the barn.

The owners made a point about a calico that had gone missing that morning.

An additional two were seen near the silos, amounting to five cats from the initial 40+.

The game warden noted that she observed +/-25 cats during her visit 3/10/25.

Of the five cats, two appeared ill. They were less wary of our presence.

Initial distal observation:

- Thin, BCS 3/9
- Scruffy and unkempt hair coat
- Diarrhea, possibly hematochezia
- Maximum constriction of pupils and bilateral squinting (probably sensitivity to light)
- No nasal or ocular discharge
- Ambulatory x4
- Weak hind limbs
- More lethargic than expected for feral cats

After consent by the owners, the game warden attempted to euthanize the cats and was unsuccessful.

The owners were educated on rabies and HPAI in cats, cattle, and humans, as well as sterilization of future cats.

They've been advised to euthanize any remaining cats, clean, and disinfect, prior to obtaining new sterilized barn cats.

They've also been advised to monitor the cattle that were in the pens where a dead skunk and cats were found.

These cattle should ideally be tested in a few weeks, but especially if any respiratory signs are observed as well as going off feed.

As of 3/15/2025, no person was experiencing a fever, respiratory or ocular clinical signs.

The owners were made aware that an epidemiologist will follow up with them regarding monitoring for clinical signs of HPAI.

They will be emailed informational material.

cah

From: AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS)

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 6:18 PM

To: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Rollo,Susan (DSHS)

<Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM

<Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>;

OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Apologies for the delayed response. I took my son to the dentist and was

held hostage.

I am unaware of any studies that have demonstrated D1.1 transmission in mammals through social grooming or respiratory secretions.

However, mutations in D701N in the PB2 gene are determinants of mammalian inter-host transmission. The mutation has not been found in D1.1 viruses from wild birds or in dairy cows with B3.13 genotype viruses. It has been found in dairy herds in Nevada. The mutation has also been found in human cases (without continuous transmission).

It would behoove (I like this word) us all to have wild/feral mammal to mammal transmission on our radars. The cats are case in point that we should.

cah

From: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:06 AM
To: AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>; Rollo,Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>
Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Thanks Dr. Abdul,

I know fomite transmission has been found in dairy cattle B3.13 but for D1.1 has there been any findings of transmission in mammals through social grooming or respiratory secretions? I know there was limited transmission in lab ferrets dependent on the dairy strain. I am just trying to measure out my level of possible catastrophizing if wild/feral mammal to mammal transmission should be on our radar now.

Dr. Sara Wyckoff, DVM

Wildlife Veterinarian

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Cell: 512-871-9214

From: AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Rollo,Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>
Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

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Morning all,

Looking back at my schedule, I visited with city officials February 14. The geese die off occurred 2-2.5 weeks before that. Likely end of January when all this began. Cats started dying in the same area shortly after the geese die off. These cats were observed to have neurologic signs. They were not tested for rabies. One cat that was submitted for HPAI came back negative, however, it was deceased for 2-2.5 weeks before submission.

With +40 cats living on this premise, occupying a closed space, that will allow for rapid spread through a colony whether it's by grooming, respiratory secretions, or fomite transmission including the sharing of litter spaces, or food bowls (and in this case bags of food that are put out to feed the cats).

The route is yet to be determined.

cah

From: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 8:18 AM
To: Rollo,Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>; AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>

Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: Re: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Hi Susan,

I've been talking with Dr. Abdul and Hunter about this and we agree with you that this is a very odd presentation, especially with no dead birds being found on the farm. I think it would also be unusual for feral cats to be scavenging off of dead skunks in such a large capacity for several cats to be sick at once.

Dr. Abdul did mention after a discussion with city officials that there was a dead geese outbreak two weeks ago that had not been reported. I will let her provide more details about that convo.

Otherwise, you're correct. The area has a large number of feed lots but no dairy farms.

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From: Rollo,Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 7:47 AM
To: Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>; Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; AbdulHamid,Cherissa (DSHS) <Cherissa.AbdulHamid@dshs.texas.gov>
Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Thomas "TR" Lansford, DVM <thomas.lansford@tahc.texas.gov>; OSullivan,Briana (DSHS) <Briana.OSullivan@dshs.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

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I hope this is not a situation that involves cat to cat transmission. It seems odd that there would be such a cluster over time.. My understanding is that the premises has beef cattle not dairy so unlikely milk related?

sr

Susan N. Rollo MS DVM PhD DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian

Zoonosis Control Branch
Department of State Health Services
Office: 512-776-3306
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From: Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 6:24 PM
To: Sara Wyckoff <Sara.Wyckoff@tpwd.texas.gov>; Rollo,Susan (DSHS) <Susan.Rollo@dshs.texas.gov>
Cc: Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Fabian Landin <Fabian.Landin@tahc.texas.gov>
Subject: Fw: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

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FYA

Brian Bohl
Texas Animal Health Commission
Director of Field Operations
(512)500-8183

From: Kiril Dimitrov <kiril.dimitrov@tvmidl.tamu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 5:49 PM
To: Lewis R. "Bud" Dinges, DVM <Bud.Dinges@tahc.texas.gov>; Jessica Monday, DVM <jessica.monday@tahc.texas.gov>; Trey James, DVM <Trey.James@tahc.texas.gov>; Brian Bohl, DVM <brian.bohl@tahc.texas.gov>; Collins, Patricia L - APHIS <patricia.l.collins@usda.gov>; Ray, Christa - MRP-APHIS <Christa.L.Ray@usda.gov>; Michelle Morelli <Michelle.Morelli@usda.gov>
Cc: Amy K. Swinford <amy.swinford@tvmidl.tamu.edu>; Terry S. Hensley <Terry.Hensley@tvmidl.tamu.edu>; Brandon J. Dominguez <brandon.dominguez@tvmidl.tamu.edu>; Alexis Thompson <alexis.thompson@tvmidl.tamu.edu>; Carlos A. Rodriguez <Carlos.Rodriguez@tvmidl.tamu.edu>
Subject: IAV / TX / barn cats / A250700010

Good afternoon,

H5 results are pending – will update once available, but wanted to give you all a heads up for this case.

TVMDL – Canyon has identified a non-negative IAV case.

There have been skunks found dead on the property as well. Cats with neurological signs.

TVMDL accession number: A250700010

Sample type: brains from 4 barn cats (tested for rabies first – all negative)

TVMDL results:

-

Sample type	Sample ID	IAV Matrix rRT-PCR Ct	IAV H5 rRT-PCR Ct	IAV H7 rRT-PCR Ct
brain	C250700010-2	23.5	pending	N/A
brain	C250700010-5	21.2	pending	N/A
brain	C250700010-8	20.5	pending	N/A
brain	C250700010-11	18.44	pending	N/A

Species: barn cats

161.056

Collection date: 3/10/2025

Premise ID: not provided

FAD:

Attached is the submission form.

Samples will be forwarded to NVSL for confirmation testing.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thanks,
-Kiril

Kiril M. Dimitrov, DVM, PhD
Assistant Agency Director for Microbiology and Research
Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab

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