Lecture 6: Pox, pets, public sentiment, public management?
Have you seen my dignity?
Pet obesity epidemic!!! (Not a zoonotic)
RSPCA in UK estimates 60% of US pets are obese
Sued one owner for a 161 pound dog which looked like a walrus

Pfizer has been approved to market Slentrol, a liquid formula to help pets maintain a healthy weight, to the estimated 5 percent of U.S. dogs that are 20 percent over their ideal weight.
Pets are part of our lives

• We think of them as ‘family’
• Children who grow up with pets are shown to be behaviorally well-adjusted
• Traditional pets = cats, dogs, rabbits, fish, some birds
  – Usually bred within the pet trade
• Exotic pets = harder to take care of, tend to be more rare, also more often wild-sourced
• Traditional pets are referred to as “companion animals”
• 63% of US households have a dog or a cat

• How do we inform them of risks?
  – Can we enforce surveillance?
  – Does that violate civil rights to privacy and ownership?

• What emotional forces are at stake, how can that be appropriately handled by policies?

• How good is the current border for overseas wildlife (hint: not very)?

• What has changed recently that means we need to pay a bit more attention
  – Think of the first lecture of the course
Today’s Menu

• Wrap-up pox
  – Think about the questions of recognition and vaccination

• Wildlife trade, global issues of man-made transfer

• Pets, cultural animals and bridging the personal gap on control.
Simon Wu
Smallpox CDC Factsheet & BBC report, 2003

Claudia Skieller
Giblin, Chapters 8,9,10

Phoung Tran
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Yi Lu
implications of commensalism, Kathmandu, Nepal. Emerging Infectious
Disease 12:900-906

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Tien Dong
Karesh WB, Cook RA, Bennett EL, Newcomb J (2005) Wildlife trade and
global disease emergence. Emerging Infectious Disease 11:1000-1002