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SUMMER CAMP JOBS

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Researchers find cat virus is similar to AIDS in humans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers have discovered a disease virus in domestic cats that is remarkably similar to the one which causes AIDS in humans, a development they say could make cats an ideal animal model for AIDS research.

Scientists at the University of California at Davis say the new cat virus is genetically distinct from the human AIDS virus, but causes a very similar disease in the animals.

Although both disease agents belong to the same unusual subfamily of viruses called retroviruses, there is no indication the cat virus can infect human beings, they said.

"There is no evidence for cat-to-human or human-to-cat infection," said Niels C. Pedersen, principal scientist involved in the study.

In a paper to be published Friday in the journal Science, researchers say the new virus is distinct from other retroviruses that can infect cats, including feline leukemia virus.

Feline leukemia virus causes diverse cancers and other diseases, including an immune deficiency similar to human AIDS. But none of the cats infected with the new virus showed evidence of infection by the leukemia virus.

The researchers said the immune disease caused by the new virus closely parallels symptoms seen in the human disease, with infected cats having swollen lymph nodes, severe weight loss, diarrhea, respiratory infections, anemia and numerous parasitic infections.

The new virus, named feline T-

lymphotropic lentivirus or FTLV, also targets the same T-lymphocyte white blood cells that are infected by the human AIDS virus.

The scientists, including Janet Yamamoto, Esther Ho and Marlo Brown, said a limited survey of blood samples seen at the university's veterinary medicine school has confirmed the existence of the virus in diseased cats from many different Northern California areas.

Although preliminary evidence suggests FTLV is widespread, they say, no one yet knows its disease-causing potential in the general domestic cat population.

Dr. Richard Olsen, professor of virology at Ohio State University and the developer of the vaccine against feline leukemia virus, said the California findings could have major implications for veterinary medicine and animal diseases.

"This virus has to be evaluated to see if it is a major feline pathogen," Olsen said in a telephone interview. "I doubt that this is a new virus. (It's) just one we have not seen before."

Dr. William Hardy, an expert on cat viruses and immune deficiency at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, said he could not comment in detail on the new virus because he had not seen the paper.

"But from what I hear, it looks like an interesting finding," Hardy said in an interview. "We know that feline leukemia virus causes AIDS in cats and having another virus of this type would be helpful to research."

Limit

(Continued from page 1)

high speeds, where the speed limit would remain at 55 mph, but Bouldinghouse says Barton doesn't believe this assumption is true.

"I don't think that that's going to happen here," he says. "One of the arguments that has been made is that once you get the camel's nose under the tent, it's all over from there. But you can make that argument with almost any situation that you're read-set against."

Brackett says some supporters of the higher speed limit assume incorrectly that they are being denied some kind of constitutional right.

"The argument typically expressed in the West," Brackett says, "is that of personal freedom: 'You are infringing on what I consider to be my right to drive as fast as I want to.' Unfortunately, (driving) is not a right, it's a privilege granted by the state."

Not only can speeders endanger other drivers with their excessive speeds, Brackett says, but excessive speed in itself intensifies the danger. "It shouldn't increase the number of accidents on the rural interstates,"

Brackett says, "but those accidents that do occur will be more severe because people are traveling at a higher rate of speed."

"The forces involved do not increase linearly, they increase exponentially. So the forces involved in the accidents that do occur are going to be much, much higher."

Some supporters of the higher speed limit acknowledge that some lives are lost, but that the vast amount of motorists are forced to spend a disproportionate amount of person-years on the roadway. Person-years are accumulated time, effort and delay spent driving 55 mph.

A report published by Transportation Research Board, which was commissioned to study this issue and report to Congress, estimates that each life saved on U.S. roadways by the 55-mph limit cost American drivers 97 person-years.

Brackett says the price of a human life is more important than the time saved.

Forecast

(Continued from page 6)

gas found and the amount of money spent looking for it.

Holditch said one consequence of low prices in the oil industry is that there are more graduate students in petroleum engineering. During the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s, it was almost impossible to keep the best students in school. Now they are needed for research, he said, to get the flagging industry back on its feet.

According to Zerle L. Carpenter, animal science professor at A&M and director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, agriculture is big business in Texas.

He said the fact agriculture has been able to hang on in the Brazos Valley says something — the Brazos Valley is more stable than many other agricultural areas of the state, with \$72 million in cash receipts from agriculture last year in Brazos and Burleson Counties.

Economist

(Continued from page 6)

duction per day in the United States, and this year will probably be the same."

Thirdly, the current rate of foreign exchange is important for Texas to recognize because the most aggressive activity in investments in the state is primarily coming from overseas, he said.

Overseas manufacturers are very interested in locating plants in Texas at this time, and a knowledge of the advantages they can gain by moving is important for Texas businessmen, Cochrane said.

Cochrane ended the program with a brief question-and-answer session in which he said the overall agriculture industry figures in Texas are relatively positive and most of the serious problems are isolated in the Rio Grande Valley.

Parks

(Continued from page 6)

He said A&M also has an advantage over other universities in getting businesses to develop in its park because A&M allows both manufacturing and research operations.

Many universities allow only research.

The three developers agreed that cooperation between A&M, Bryan and College Station is critical if the area is to bring in new companies and expand its industrial production.

Money said there are more industrial parks nationwide than there are new businesses to fill them.

Dick Haddox, vice chairman of the College Station Economic Development Foundation, said the College Station industrial park complements, not competes with, the Bryan and A&M parks.

"Everyone should work together," Haddox said.

"It's better to have a new business in one (industrial park) than none."

Tom Salamon, president of the Bryan Development Foundation, said some companies that have main offices outside Brazos Valley, but have manufacturing plants in Bryan-College Station, are shutting down plants and consolidating. Salamon said these firms should be encouraged to move their operations to the area.

Haddox suggested targeting Houston businessmen who are A&M graduates to invest in the community.

"A&M graduates are the most loyal people in the world," Haddox said.

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