HIV OUTBREAK IN INDIANA AFFECTING RESIDENTS' QUALITY OF LIFE

LOS ANGELES: An outbreak of canine flu that began last year in Midwest states, making it the most widespread canine flu outbreak on record, is spreading to states that have not previously been affected. While experts blame the epidemic on a strain called H1N2 that is new in the U.S., no vaccine is available to protect pets. Instead, veterinarians are urging owners to keep their pets healthy by vaccinating them against rabies and other diseases.

CHICAGO: In this undated photo provided by Steve Gilberg and his dog Joey pose for photos in Chicago. The 6-year-old pug-Chihuahua mix came down with canine flu. “It was a Sunday morning and I just put my dog outside to breathe some air and he started coughing really, really hard, kind of like a smoker’s hacking cough,” said the users discarding their needles, “so I took him to the vet and they gave him 10 days of antibiotics.”

US WEIGHS REGULATING HOMOEOPATHY

WASHINGTON: US regulators assessing homeopathic drugs’ safety and efficacy could require proof that they are ‘superior’ to over-the-counter medicines. The agency says it demands evidence of medicinal equivalence before allowing a homeopathic product to be marketed.

ALABAMA: Children play around Planet Earth Park situated in Northport, Alabama on Earth Day. Earth Day is observed on April 22, during which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. —AP

BALDING GERMAN REFUSED FREE WIG

BERLIN: Balding among senior men is not a medical condition requiring health insurance, a German court has ruled, in a case which highlights the narrow interpretation of health care by insurers. The court refused to grant a German pensioner a medical wig.

AHMEDABAD: Indian children play around ‘Planet Earth Park’ situated in Northport, Alabama on Earth Day. Earth Day is observed on April 22, during which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. —AP

WORRIED SICK DOG CANINE FLU?

TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOUR PUP

AIDS/HAIV: Main street in this southern Indiana city is lined with blooming dogwood trees and pruned lilacs, bathed in a soft pink and white glow. There’s a constant stream of cars and trucks passing through, and as the March sun shines on the city, the tops of buildings and the top of the sky are painted a deep blue.

The outbreak is tied to needle-sharing among users who are usually shooting up a Supervised Injection Program called Doine. A Scott County health department nurse described the phenomenon months earlier, before the recent epidemic measles outbreak. She said she had treated dozens of users in Scott County over the last 10 years, and that she had seen an increase in needle-sharing.

The main concern of the study is to determine the risk of HIV transmission in Indiana residents who share injection equipment. The study found that the risk of HIV transmission is low when users share needles, but increases when users share syringes, especially if they are virally infected.

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