

# Summary of Breakout Session 1A: *WNV Surveillance*

- **Julian:** *WN meningitis – How hard should we be looking?*
- **Komar:** *Use of sentinel animals for WNV virus surveillance – State of the Art*
- **Travis:** *Summary of WNV surveillance project in zoos*

# Julian – WN Meningitis

---

- **113 aseptic meningitis cases, Baltimore, 2001**
- **Background of intense epizootic WNV transmission and sporadic human WN encephalitis cases**

# Julian – WN Meningitis

- **Despite WNV avian epizootic and WN encephalitis cases, no apparent WN meningitis epidemic**
- **Enteroviruses predominated as identified cause of aseptic meningitis in children and adults**

# 2001 National WNV Guidelines

---

- **“Monitoring of milder illnesses such as aseptic meningitis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, and fever with rash illness is resource-dependent and should be of lower priority.”**
- **No change needed**

# Komar – Sentinel Animals

- **Dead bird surveillance still highly useful**
  - **Tracking WNV virus**
  - **Predicting human risk?**
  - **Crows & non-crows**
  - **Brain / Heart / Kidney**
  - **Oral / cloacal swabs: promising but experimental**

# Komar – Sentinel Animals

- **Captive sentinels have an important role**
  - **Location, location, location!**
  - **Chickens: >200 seroconversions in 2001, FL**
  - **Pigeons, other**
- **Free-ranging sentinels: limited role**

## Advantages of Pigeon Sentinels

- Detect WNV as or more frequently than chickens
- Readily available in wild
- Cost less:

	<u>Pigeon</u>	<u>Chicken</u>
➤ Initial Setup:	\$1115	\$2059
➤ Maintenance:	\$189/mo.	\$257/mo.
➤ Total Cost:	\$2060	\$3339
- Less space required



# 2001 National WNV Guidelines

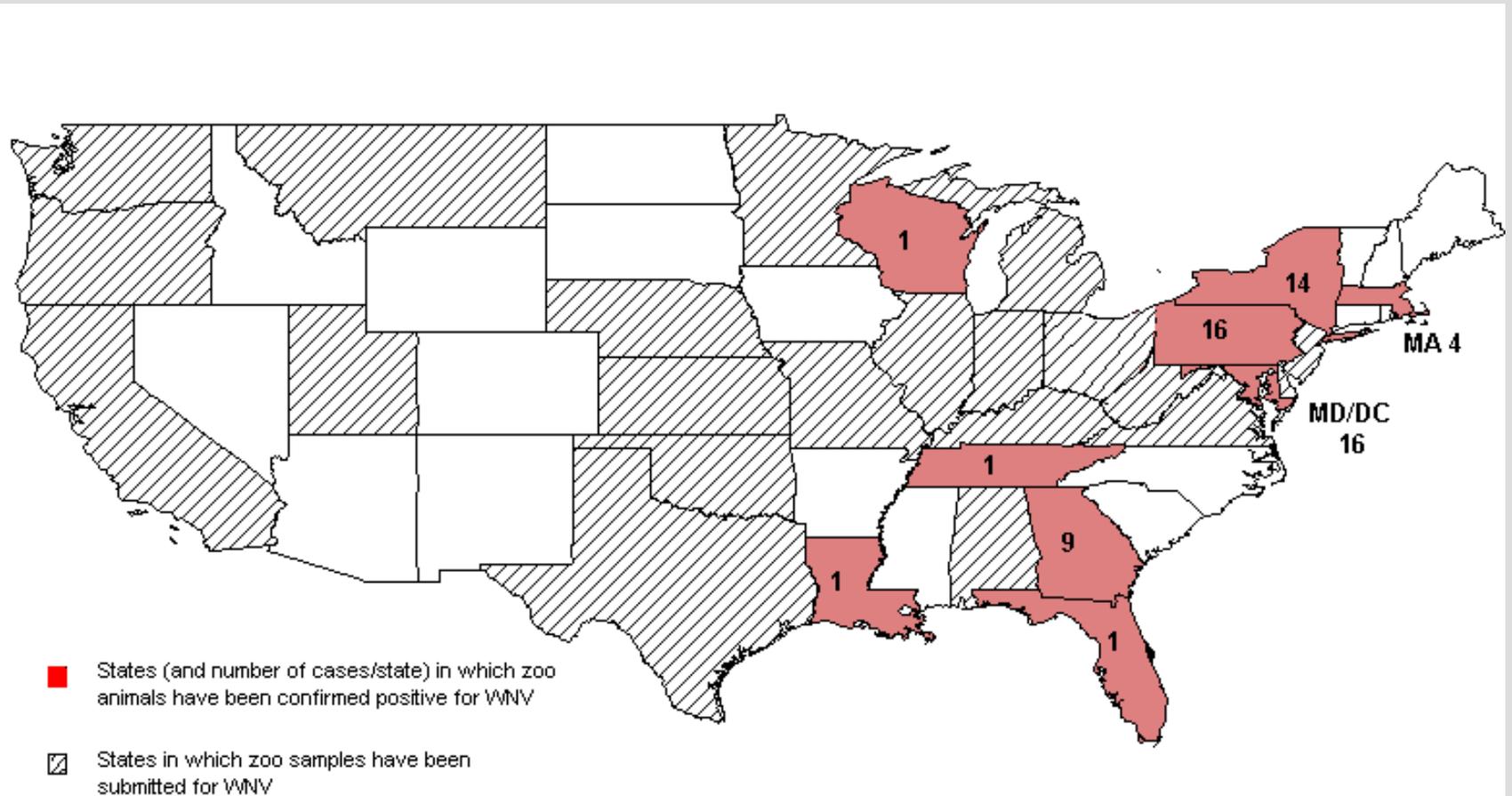
---

- **No change needed**

# Travis – Zoo Surveillance

- **Over 1,450 animals tested**
  - **967 birds (195 species)**
  - **40 equids (8 species)**
  - **436 other mammals (110 species)**
  - **20 reptiles (6 species)**
- **64 participating institutions**
- **30 states & D.C.**

# Confirmed Positive Distribution



# 2001 National WNV Guidelines

- p. 10: “Alternatively, pre-existing captive birds (e.g., domestic poultry, pigeons and **zoologic collections**) may be used as sentinels.
- No change needed