

Domestic animals, wildlife and humans face similar health threats



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

Domestic animals, wildlife and humans face similar health threats



Rabies is present on all continents except the Antarctic. Even though dog bites are responsible for more than 90% of cases of rabies virus transmission to humans, bats – including vampire bats - and foxes can act as reservoirs and vectors of the disease, posing a very real threat to animal and public health.



Non-human primates (monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees) are often involved in the transmission of **Ebola virus** to humans, but they also fall victim to it. Bats are suspected to be the natural host of this zoonosis, which is highly lethal for humans.



Nipah virus is an emerging zoonosis (a disease transmissible from animals to humans) whose natural hosts are fruit-eating bats. Deforestation, depriving bats of their natural habitat and forcing them to move closer to villages is the likely cause of virus transmission to pigs and thereafter, to humans...



In many countries, infected domestic cattle have transmitted **bovine tuberculosis** to wildlife. Infected wildlife can then act as a reservoir for the disease and are in turn likely to infect cattle.



West Nile fever is chiefly carried by birds and can be transmitted via mosquitoes to other birds and also to humans and horses. In 1999, the disease appeared for the first time in the United States of America and spread throughout the North American subcontinent in less than ten years. In 2000, after an absence of 35 years, it reappeared in the Camargue region of France, infecting horses, humans and birds.

A zoonosis is a disease transmissible from animals to humans