Rinderpest

What is rinderpest and what causes it?

Rinderpest is a disease primarily affecting domestic cattle and buffalo. It is caused by a virus, is spread by direct contact and commonly causes death of infected animals. Due to a Global Rinderpest Eradication Program, it is limited to a few areas of Africa and central Asia.

What animals get rinderpest?

Cattle and buffalo are most commonly affected. Outbreaks in these animals can approach death rates of 100%. Sheep and goats are also affected, but with less serious consequences. Pigs and deer can be infected, but many times the disease goes unnoticed in these species.

How can my animal get rinderpest?

Rinderpest can spread from sick animals to healthy animals through direct contact. The spread of rinderpest from one location to another requires the movement of infected animals. It can also spread through fomites such as feed troughs and watering tanks.

How does rinderpest affect my animal?

Sick animals have a sudden onset of fever, followed by depression and diarrhea. Sores develop in their mouths which causes them to drool. Discharges from the nose and eyes are also present. Most animals that contract this disease develop mouth sores and die.

Can I get rinderpest?

No. Rinderpest does not infect people.

Who should I contact, if I suspect rinderpest?

In Animals – Contact your veterinarian.

How can I protect my animal from rinderpest?

Rinderpest is considered a foreign animal disease and is not present in the United States. The best approach to prevention is surveillance.

Becoming aware of the clinical signs of the disease (sores in the mouth, sudden fever, drooling and a high death rate) and the conditions resulting in the transmission of the disease (the introduction of infected animals into the herd) are the best ways to protect your animals.

In a rinderpest outbreak, limit all contact with animals outside of your herd and quarantine all newly introduced animals for a period of time established with your herd veterinarian.

For More Information

CFSPH Technical Fact Sheets. Rinderpest at http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/


OIE Disease Cards. Rinderpest. http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/fiches/a_A040.htm

Rinderpest is a viral disease that causes illness in animals.

Calf head photo courtesy of R. Roeder at www.fao.org; Oral sores photo courtesy of Plum Island Animal Disease Center.