## Biological Risk Management



## TRANSMISSION ROUTE DEFINITIONS

Disease causing agents can be spread from animal-to-animal or animal-to-human and vice versa, through a variety of transmission routes.



**Aerosol**— Droplets are passed through the air from one animal to another.



 Oral — Consuming disease causing agents in contaminated feed, water or licking/chewing on contaminated environmental objects.



• **Direct contact**— A susceptible animal becomes exposed when the disease agent directly touches open wounds, mucous membranes, or the skin through blood, saliva, nose to nose contact, rubbing, or biting.



 Reproductive — A subtype of direct contact that includes diseases spread through mating or to the fetus during pregnancy.



- **Fomite** An inanimate object carrying a disease agent from one susceptible animal to another.
  - **Traffic** A subtype of fomite transmission in which a vehicle, trailer, or human spreads organic material to another location.



**Vector-borne** — An insect acquires a disease agent from one animal and transmits it to another.



• **Zoonotic** — Diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

**Environmental contamination** must always be taken into consideration.