

TRANSMISSION ROUTES OF ZONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Aerosol

Inhalation of droplets passed through the air from an infected animal. Exposure can occur from droplets created by coughing, sneezing, or from air-borne dust or soil contaminated with feces, urine, saliva or bacteria.



Oral

Ingestion of food or water, such as unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat, contaminated with a pathogen. Eating or drinking after handling animals or feces without washing your hands can also lead to oral transmission of diseases.

Direct Contact

Exposure can occur when a pathogen directly touches an open wound or mucous membranes. It can also be transmitted by bites and scratches and rarely through direct penetration of the skin.

Vectors

Transfer of certain pathogens can occur from an infected animal to a person by insects, such as fleas, ticks or mosquitoes.

Fomites

Objects contaminated by an infected animal can serve to transfer a pathogen from an animal to a person. Examples of fomites include cages, aquaria, brushes, blankets, bowls, or bedding.