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.

- **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.

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

- **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.