

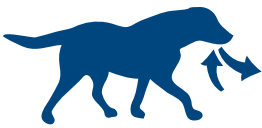
Routes of Disease Transmission

Companion Animal Zoonoses

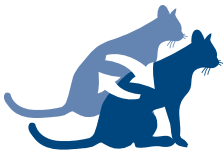
Disease causing agents (or pathogens) can be spread from animal-to-animal or animal-to-human through a variety of transmission routes.



- **Aerosol** — Droplets containing pathogens travel through the air and are inhaled by another animal or human.



- **Oral** — Ingestion of disease causing agents from contaminated food, water or by licking or chewing contaminated objects in the environment.



- **Direct contact** — Spread of pathogens through contact with open wounds, mucous membranes, or abraded skin contacting an infected animal or its tissues or fluids (e.g., blood, saliva, urine). Inoculation of pathogens can occur from bites or scratches.



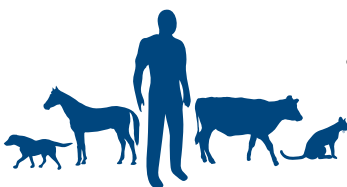
- **Reproductive** — A subtype of direct contact that involves pathogens spread by contact with reproductive fluids or tissues. In animals, pathogens may be spread during breeding or between mother and offspring.



- **Fomite** — Spread of pathogens through contact with objects or surfaces contaminated by an infected animal.



- **Vector-borne** — Transfer of a pathogen from an infected animal to another animal or a human by an insect (e.g., flea, tick, mosquito).



- **Zoonoses** — Diseases spread between animals and humans.

Environmental contamination must always be taken into consideration.