

Notable Zoonotic Diseases of "Exotic" Companion Animals

Disease	Agent	Species	Prevention	Response to infection in a companion animal	Reportable
Avian influenza	Highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses	b	Avoid exposure to wild birds; not yet reported in Americas	Notify state health officials	Yes
Campylobacteriosis	<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	d, c, f, gp, h, t, ls, b	Sanitation; closed populations; routine microscopic fecal exams	Antibiotics if necessary	No
Cestodiasis (tapeworms)	<i>Hymenolepis</i> spp.; <i>Dipylidium</i> spp.	m, rt, g	Sanitation; flea control; routine microscopic fecal exams	De-worming and flea control	No
Dermatophytosis (ringworm)	<i>Tinea</i> spp.; <i>Trichophyton</i> spp.; <i>Microsporum</i> spp.	d, c, f, rb, m, rt, gp, h, hh	Vaccination of cats in the home	Antifungal therapy, disinfectant baths	No
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis	<i>Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus</i>	m, rt, gp, h	Prevent exposure to wild rodents & insects	Depopulation/euthanasia	No
Mycobacteriosis	<i>Mycobacterium</i> spp.	hh, t, l/s, a, b	Captive breeding; limit exposure to soil; sanitary environment	Euthanasia or possibly combination drug therapy	Yes
Pasteurellosis	<i>Pasteurella multocida</i> and other <i>P.</i> spp.	d, c, rb, m, rt, gp, h	Biosecurity; sanitation; quarantine	Antibiotics	No
Psittacosis	<i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i>	b	Proper husbandry, sanitation, quarantine, diagnostic screening	Antibiotic therapy	Yes
Plague	<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	c, f, rb, rt, hh	Flea control, prevent exposure to wild rodents	Antibiotic therapy	Yes
Rabies	lyssavirus	d, c, f, hh	Vaccination of appropriate species; avoid contact with potential carriers (wild animals)	Quarantine of vaccinated & potentially infected animals; euthanasia of unvaccinated potentially infected animals	Yes
Rat-bite fever	<i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i>	rt	Control wild rodents; avoid exposure to wild rodents; sanitary environment	Antibiotic therapy; surgical removal of abscesses	No
Salmonellosis	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	d, c, f, rb, gp, h, hh, g, t, l/s, a, b	Appropriate diet; ideal husbandry; wild rodent control; vaccination of poultry	Fluid and electrolyte supportive care, antibiotics in some cases	No
Tularemia	<i>Francisella tularensis</i>	d, c, rb, gp, h, g	Control fleas & ticks; avoid exposure to wild rodents & rabbits	Antibiotics	Yes
West Nile Virus	<i>West Nile Virus</i>	b	Avoid exposure to mosquitoes and wild birds, equine vaccine available	Empirical supportive care	Yes

Species abbreviations: d-dogs, c-cats, f-ferrets, rb-rabbits, m-mice, rt-rats, gp-guinea pigs, h-hamsters, hh-hedgehogs, g-gerbils, t-turtles, l/s-lizards/snakes, a-amphibians, b-birds