

POSSIBLE ZOOSES OF RABBITS

Use of animals from approved vendors and proper use of personal protective equipment makes the risk of transmission of these diseases unlikely.

PATHOGEN	TRANSMISSION	ANIMAL DISEASE	HUMAN DISEASE
<i>Cheyletiella parasitovorax</i> (skin mites)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct handling of infested animal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate hair loss and scaly skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate hair loss and scaly skin
<i>Coxiella burnetti</i> (Q fever)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerosolization; ingestion; person-person contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like illness; fever; headache; pneumonia; nephritis; endocarditis
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (Cryptosporidiosis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal-oral; ingestion of contaminated products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymptomatic; diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watery diarrhea; stomach cramps; dehydration; nausea; vomiting; fever
<i>Encephalitozoon cuniculi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown but organism is found in urine of infected animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convulsions; tremors; paresis; coma; lesions; inflammation of organs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In immunocompromised individuals: renal failure; keratoconjunctivitis, fever, respiratory symptoms; neurological symptoms
<i>Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli</i> (EHEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fecal-oral exposure; ingestion of contaminated food water; direct contact with animal shedding organism; direct contact with environmental contaminates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemorrhagic diarrhea; sudden death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemorrhagic diarrhea
<i>Francisella tularensis</i> (Tularemia, rabbit fever)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handling infected animal; airborne transmission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness; fever; ulcers; abscesses; lethargy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flu-like symptoms; diarrhea; headaches; skin ulcers; pneumonia
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal bites or scratches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper respiratory tract infection; pneumonia; abscesses; inflammation of ear(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflammation around bite/scratch; abscess formation with systemic symptoms; respiratory infections
<i>Trichophyton mentagrophytes</i>; <i>Microsporum canis</i> (Dermatophytosis) (Ring worm)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct handling of infected animal or contact with fur or dander 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate hair loss and scaly skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate hair loss and scaly skin
<i>Yersinia</i> (plague)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with contaminated fluids or tissue; inhalation of infectious droplets; flea bites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild illness with fever, swollen lymph nodes; internal abscesses; sudden death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bubonic plague; septicemic plague; pneumonic plague

ALLERGENS OF RABBITS

The major sources of rabbit allergen exposure is fur and dander. However, urine and saliva are considered minor rabbit allergens. In personnel with close, repeated contact with rabbits there is a possibility to develop contact allergies and/or inhalant allergies. Disturbance of bedding can cause allergens to become airborne. Exposure concentrations are task related. Cage cleaning results in a much higher concentration of airborne allergens than does other tasks like weighing, shaving, blood collection, and urine collection.

References

- Harkness JE, Turner PV, VandeWoude S, and Wheler CL. 2013. Harkness and Wagner's Biology and Medicine of Rabbits and Rodents. John Wiley and Sons. Ames, IA.
- Hill WA and Brown JP. 2011. Zoonoses of Rabbits and Rodents. Vet Clin Exot Anim. 14 (519-531). doi: 10.2016/j.cvex.2011.05.009.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control (CDC). 2017. Diseases that Can Spread Between Animals and People. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/diseases/index.html>