

Unit 6: Zoonotic diseases Factsheet

Zoonosis is a disease that is naturally transmissible between animals, including birds and humans.

Some of the diseases are also termed 'notifiable' i.e. government agencies need to know that they have occurred so that they can follow the case e.g. E Coli 0157 is one such bacterium.

The zoonotic diseases can cause a variety of symptoms, from flu like symptoms, skin irritation to potential death.

The diseases can be classified into 3 main categories:

- Bacterial
- Parasitic
- Any other pathogen e.g. virus, fungus or protozoa.

1. Bacterial agents

- Campylobacter
- Brucellosis
- E. Coli
- E Coli 0157
- Leptospirosis
- Listeriosis
- Pasteurellosis
- Salmonellosis (salmonella)
- Streptococcus suis (meningitis)
- Chlamydomphila psittaii (abortion)
- Mycobacterium bovis -TB
- Borreliosis - lyme disease

2. Parasitic agents

- Echinococcosis - hydatid
- Taeniasis - tapeworm
- Toxocariasis
- Trichinosis

3. Other pathogens

- Orf - virus
- Ringworm - fungus
- Cryptosporidium - protozoa
- Toxoplasmosis - protozoa
- Q Fever - rickettsia

Personal preventative measures to avoid zoonotic diseases

- Wash hands after working with animals or animal dung
- Gloves should be worn when lambing, calving or dealing with aborted fetuses
- Pregnant women should avoid pregnant ewes aborting
- Dogs and cats should be wormed regularly
- When preparing food, hygiene should be paramount
- All farm animals that have zoonotic diseases should be isolated and treated by persons wearing full protective clothing.