

Diseases common to all Wildlife, domestic animals and humans face the same dangers

Rabies is present on all continents except the Antarctic. Even though dog bites are responsible for 99% of cases of rabies virus transmission to humans, bats – including vampire bats - and foxes can act as reservoirs and vectors of the disease, posing a very real threat to animal and public health.

Non-human primates (monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees) are often involved in the transmission of **Ebola virus** to humans, but they also fall victim to it. There is still no treatment or vaccine for this disease, first identified in 1976.

Nipah virus is an emerging zoonosis (a disease transmissible from animals to humans) whose natural hosts are fruit-eating bats. Deforestation, depriving bats of their natural habitat and forcing them to move closer to villages is the likely cause of virus transmission to pigs and thereafter, to humans...

In many countries, infected domestic cattle have transmitted **bovine tuberculosis** to wildlife. Infected wildlife can then act as a reservoir for the disease and are in turn likely to infect cattle.

West Nile fever is chiefly carried by birds and can be transmitted via mosquitoes to other birds and also to humans and horses. In 1999, the disease appeared for the first time in the United States of America and spread throughout the North American subcontinent in less than ten years. In 2000, after an absence of 35 years, it reappeared in the Camargue region of France, infecting horses, humans and birds.

And many others...

Aquatic animals are also under threat

Due to the **unprecedented** growth in the volume and diversity of world **trade in marine and freshwater products**, disease prevention and health controls for farmed aquatic animals require the same attention as for terrestrial animals if we are to be able to feed humanity.

For example.

Amphibians such as frogs...

Amphibian populations are declining almost everywhere in the world. This decline is partly due to the capture of wild amphibians to be sent to developed countries resulting in the worldwide spread of two diseases: chytrid fungus infection and infection with ranavirus, which are now devastating amphibian populations in the wild.

Crustaceans such as crayfish...

The transfer of freshwater crayfish from North America to Europe for breeding purposes has led to widespread contamination with crayfish plague, which also affects populations in the wild. Some crayfish species are now classified as seriously 'threatened'.

Fish such as Atlantic salmon...

The decline in wild Atlantic salmon populations is partly due to the parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*, spread as a result of the human introduction of new salmon populations in Norway. Epizootic ulcerative syndrome is another major threat to freshwater and brackish water fish populations, whether wild or farmed.

