



VIRUS & DOGS



ONE HEALTH COMMITTEE

What is the Ebola virus?

Ebola virus disease, formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.

Where does Ebola come from?

It is thought that fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are natural Ebola virus hosts.

How do people get Ebola?

Because the natural reservoir host of Ebola viruses has not yet been identified, the manner in which the virus first appears in a human at the start of an outbreak is unknown. However, researchers believe that the first patient becomes infected through contact with close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected African animals such as chimpanzees, gorillas, fruit bats, monkeys, forest antelope and porcupines. When an infection does occur in humans, the virus can be spread in several ways to other people. Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose, or mouth) with:

- blood or body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of a person or animal that is sick with Ebola
- objects (like needles and syringes) that have been contaminated with the virus

Ebola is not spread through the air or by water, or in general, by food. However, in Africa, Ebola virus may be spread as a result of handling bushmeat (wild animals hunted for food) and contact with infected bats. There is no evidence that mosquitoes or other insects can transmit Ebola virus. Only mammals (for example, humans, bats, monkeys, and apes) have shown the ability to become infected with and spread Ebola virus.



From www.worldwildlife.org



From www.huffingtonpost.com

How is the Ebola virus treated?

Early supportive care with rehydration, and other symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is as yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.

Can dogs get the Ebola virus?

Dogs have been reported to have developed antibodies, indicating an exposure to the virus, but dogs have not been reported to show signs or develop disease from the Ebola virus

Can my dog give me the Ebola virus?

There have been no reports of pets becoming sick with Ebola or of playing a role in transmission of Ebola to humans. If there is a pet in the home of an Ebola patient, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that public health officials in collaboration with a veterinarian, evaluate its risk of exposure (close contact and exposure to blood or body fluids of an Ebola patient). Based on what we know about humans, an exposed pet should be monitored, in collaboration with a veterinarian, with limited contact, for a minimum of three weeks following the exposure