Zoonotic diseases are transmitted between animals and humans and can pose a significant threat to human health. It’s critical veterinary clinic staff and TVMDL employees handle animal samples in a way that minimizes the threat of zoonotic transmission.

**COMMON ZOONOTIC DISEASES**

While working in a veterinary clinic, you will likely encounter a range of animal diseases. TVMDL’s testing services can assist in the identification of many zoonotic diseases such as:

- Anthrax*
- Brucellosis*
- Influenza viruses (e.g., avian, swine)
- Leptospirosis
- Plague*
- Q-Fever*
- Rabies
- Salmonellosis

*indicates a bioterrorism agent according to the CDC

**PROTECTING CLINIC STAFF**

**Zoonotic Clinical Signs**
- Receive a thorough clinical history about patient
- Be aware some clinical signs may indicate zoonotic disease
- Handle all samples with zoonoses in mind

**Safe Sample Collection**
- Wear gloves and disposable lab coats during collection
- Certain zoonotic diseases are transmitted via aerosol or droplet spray. Wear goggles and masks, if needed.

**Disinfect Fomites**
- Wash hands
- After sample collection, disinfect tools, surfaces, and other objects that came in contact with animal.
- Change clothes and shoes, if necessary

**PROTECTING TVMDL STAFF**

**Zoonotic Suspect Check Box**
- Located under the specimen type and test request table
- Check if zoonosis is suspected
- Download Submission Form from tvmdl.tamu.edu to ensure current version is submitted

**Clinical History**
- Critical to overall testing process and must include:
  - All clinical signs
  - Contact with other animals
  - If patient has traveled to or is from endemic area

**Shipping to TVMDL**
- Put Submission Form in clear plastic bag and place on top of Styrofoam insert
- Allows easy access for lab staff and minimizes physical contact with specimen
- Ship zoonotic specimen separate from non-zoonotic cases to avoid delays

If you have questions regarding shipping or testing zoonotic specimens, contact the College Station laboratory at 1.888.646.5623.