

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 ZOOBOTIC 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.