Infected bats may be spread as a result of handling bushmeat (wild animals hunted for food) and contact with infected animals (e.g., in Africa, ebola is not spread through the air or by water, or in general, by food). However, in Africa, ebola is spread by direct contact from person to person through broken skin or mucous membranes, especially in the eyes, nose, or mouth.

When infection occurs in humans, the virus can be spread in several ways to others. Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes in, for example, the eyes, nose, mouth) with blood or body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, lesions, vomit, breast milk, and

How does ebola spread?

ongoing ebola transmission.

Primates in the current West African epidemic, animals have not been found to be a factor in

affected by ebola, and multiple spillover events occurred when people touched or ate infected can lead to large numbers of infected persons. In some past ebola outbreaks, primates were also

(sap and monkeys), which is called a spillover event. Person-to-person transmission follows and

first patient becomes infected through contact with an infected animal, such as a fruit bat or primate

first appears in a human at the site of an outbreak is unknown. However, scientists believe that the

because the natural reservoir host of ebola has not yet been confirmed, the way in which the virus

How are animals involved in ebola outbreaks?

Sieve.

Veterinary Medical Association do not believe that pets are at significant risk for ebola in the United

may be found in several kinds of animals, CDC, the US Department of Agriculture, and the American

and in particular, the risk to household pets. While the information available suggests that the virus

Africa/index.html) has raised several questions about the disease affects the animal population.

The ongoing epidemic of ebola in west africa (http://www.cdc.gov/ebola/healthcare/2014-west-africa/

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Questions and Answers about ebola and Pets
A person with symptoms of Ebola infection, people or other animals. It is important to keep people and animals away from blood or body fluids of a person sick with Ebola.

We do not yet know whether or not a pet's body, paws, or fur can pick up and spread Ebola to a person.

**Can my pet's body, fur, or paws spread Ebola to a person?**

Symptoms of a person sick with Ebola.

United States is very low as they would have to come into contact with blood and body fluids of a person sick with Ebola. Even in areas in Africa where Ebola is present, there have been no reports of dogs and cats becoming sick with Ebola.

The risk to pets is also very low as they would have to come into contact with blood and body fluids of a person sick with Ebola. Therefore, the risk of an Ebola outbreak affecting multiple people in the United States is very low. Therefore, becoming sick with Ebola:

**Here in the United States, are our dogs and cats at risk of becoming infected with Ebola virus?**

Yes, other insects can transmit Ebola virus. Ability to become infected with and spread Ebola virus, there is no evidence that mosquitoes or Only a few species of mammals (for example, humans, monkeys, and apes) have shown the...

**Can dogs get infected or sick with Ebola?**

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dead.

in the United States, to reduce the risk of disease transmission, never attempt to touch a bat, keep a cat, or living or

in the United States to be very low. However, bats are known to carry rabies and other diseases. Here in

known to carry Ebola, and so CDC considered the risk of an Ebola outbreak from bats occurring in the

bats in Africa are considered to be a natural reservoir for Ebola. Bats in North America are not

Can bats spread Ebola?

bats are not at risk for spreading Ebola.

who may have Ebola. Healthy monkeys already living in the United States and without exposure to a
decreased appetite, and sudden death. Monkeys should not be allowed to have contact with anyone

Yes, monkeys are at risk for Ebola. Symptoms of Ebola infection in monkeys include fever,

Can monkeys spread Ebola?

may be different from Federal regulations. Animals may have additional requirements.

Each state and U.S. Territory has its own rules for pet ownership and importation, and these rules

not allowed to be imported as pets under any circumstances.

or be vaccinated against rabies before arrival into the United States. Monkeys and African rodents are

CDC regulations require that dogs and cats imported into the United States be healthy. Dogs must

the United States from West Africa?

be vaccinated against rabies before arrival into the United States. There is no reason to test a dog or cat for Ebola. If there was no exposure to a person

What are the requirements for bringing pets or other animals into

bats are not at risk for spreading Ebola.

Can I get my dog or cat tested for Ebola?

officials will determine how the pet should be handled.

Based on this evaluation as well as the specific situation, local and state human and animal health

risk of exposure to the virus (close contact or exposure to blood or body fluids of an Ebola patient).

CDC recommends that public health officials in collaboration with a veterinarian evaluate the pets

What if there is a pet in the home of an Ebola patient?

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soon as it becomes available. Additional information and guidance will be posted on this website as well as partner websites as association, and many other partners to develop additional guidance for the U.S. pet population. CDC is currently working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and national organizations to provide guidance to the public.

Where can I find more information about Ebola and pet dogs and cats?

October 14, 2014

Public Health
Bureau for Human Services
Health Resources