



THE BARRACKS VET SURGERY MOSMAN

Z O O N O S E S

What are Zoonotic diseases?

Zoonotic diseases, or zoonoses, are harmful diseases that can be transmitted to humans from animals. Some, such as Hydatids, Anthrax, Hendra Virus Infection, or Avian Influenza may be fatal. They are fairly rare and risks can be reduced by taking precautions.

How can they be prevented?

Protective clothing, washing hands, sterilising objects and vaccinations may help prevent infection. Take special care when overseas, visiting farms or breeding kennels, handling native animals, near excrement or if a person's skin is broken by/near an animal.

Zoonotic diseases which can result from injury include:

- Tetanus which can occur after any penetrating injury
- Cat scratch disease from skin penetration by claw or tooth
- Bat Lyssavirus which is similar to rabies and can be transmitted from handling bats
- Rabies which is not a problem in Australia, but which is transmitted by a bite or scratch
- Infections which are easily transmitted by a bite or scratch

Zoonoses which can be transmitted via animal faeces, placenta, blood saliva or urine include:

- Intestinal Bacteria (such as Salmonella, EColi, Giardia, and Toxoplasmosis)
- Intestinal Nematodes
- Leptospirosis
- Hydatids
- Brucellosis
- Q Fever
- Listeriosis

Zoonoses which are aerosol spread include:

- Bacteria (Salmonella, Pseudomonas, Chlamydia)
- Viral (Equine Morbillivirus)

Zoonoses which can be transmitted through touch include:

- Dermatophyte (ringworm)
- Intestinal bacteria, protozoa, nematodes, tapeworm
- Sarcoptic mange
- Cat scratch disease (through saliva)