

# TRANSMISSION ROUTES OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS

## Aerosol

Inhalation of droplets passed through the air from an infected animal. Exposure can occur from droplets created by coughing, sneezing, or from air-borne dust or soil contaminated with feces, urine, saliva or bacteria.

## Vectors

Transfer of certain pathogens can occur from an infected animal to another animal or person by insects, such as fleas, ticks or mosquitoes.



## Oral

Ingestion of food or water, such as unpasteurized milk or under cooked meat, contaminated with a pathogen. Eating or drinking after handling animals or feces without washing your hands can also lead to oral transmission of diseases.

## Direct Contact

Exposure can occur when a pathogen directly touches an open wound or mucous membranes. It can also be transmitted by bites and scratches and rarely through direct penetration of the skin.

## Fomites

Objects or surfaces contaminated by an infected animal can lead to pathogen exposure for other animals and people. Examples include cages, aquaria, bowls, toys, or bedding.

