

# Outline Significance of zoonotic infections Which zoonotic microorganisms are relevant? Significant companion animal zoonoses Control of zoonoses



# Can you answer these questions?

•Should dog and cat bite wounds in the human always be treated with antibiotics?

•Are cats allowed with immunosuppressed patients (HIV, splenectomy)?

•Is deworming of the dog/cat twice a year sufficient to prevent human toxocarosis?

•Should pregnant women prevent any contact with cats?

•Will a new SARS outbreak require stringent measures regarding cats?

# Zoonotic infections

- **Definition**: any disease and infection that are naturally transmitted between vertebrate animals and humans (WHO)
- Approx. 61% of existing human pathogens are zoonotic<sup>1</sup>
- Since 1979 more than 40 new human infectious diseases → 75% of these (emerging) diseases are zoonotic<sup>1</sup>
- Global impact more significant than indicated

<sup>1</sup> Taylor and Latham. 2001



# Reasons for emerging zoonoses

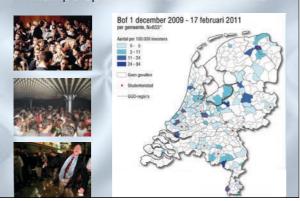
- Extensive population movements
- tourism to 'true nature' (rabies, leptospirosis) - business travel
- military operations (Iraq, Afganistan  $\rightarrow$  leishmaniosis, Q-fever) - immigration (brucellosis, echinococcosis, tuberculosis)
- Exotic pets
- Tasting all sorts of raw delicacies (even in the field; bush meat)
- Global warming

# Reasons for emerging zoonoses

Medical progress created a vast reservoir: • Immunocompromized patients (YOPI's)

- Young - Old
- Pregnant
- Immune suppressed (cancer treatment, AIDS, splenectomy) - (students)

# Mumps epidemic in Dutch students

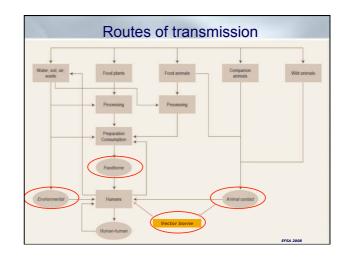


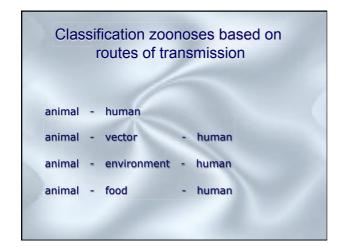
# Reasons for emerging zoonoses

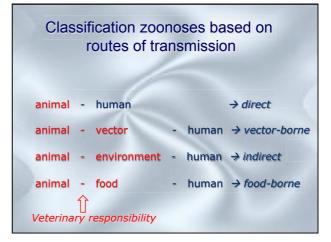
# Medical progress created a vast reservoir:

- Immunocompromised patients (YOPI's)
- YOPI's can be found:
- children playgrounds / petting zoos
- children care centres - homes for the elderly
- care farms

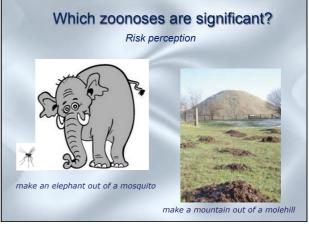














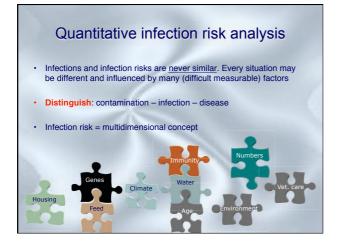




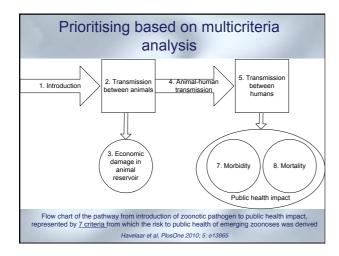


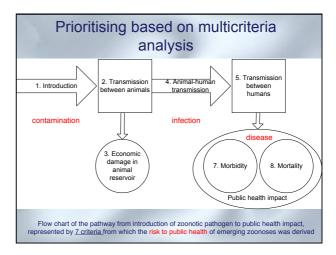


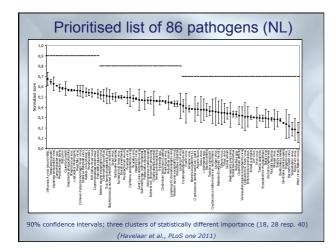


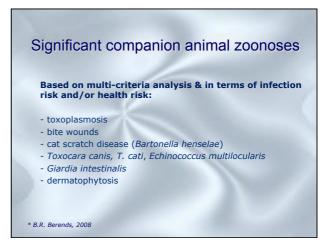






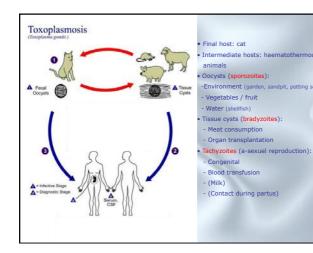


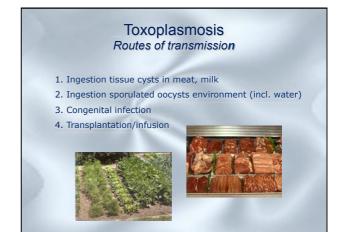




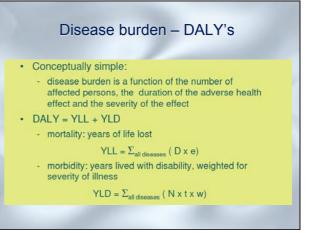




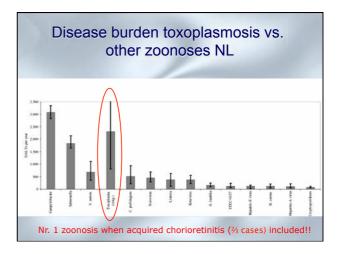








		Total number	Duration (years)	Disability weight	
	Most likely	Low	High		
Stillbirth (after 24 weeks)	3	1.4	9.5	79	1
Chorioretinitis in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of life	14	6.6	25	79	0.08
Intracranial calcifications	11.4	5	20.2	79	0.01
Hydrocephalus	1.9	0.7	4.4	79	0.36
CNS abnormalities	2.7	0.5	9.6	79	0.36
Death in 1 <sup>st</sup> year of life	0.75	0.2	2	79	1
Chorioretinitis later in life	17	3	76	69	0.08



# Toxoplasmosis risk factors\*

### Age 20-79:

- Owning a cat (1.4)
- Undercooked pork meat (1.4) (beef: not)

Ingesting sand from sandpit (1.6)Eating unwashed vegetables (1.5)

# Age <15 jaar (children):

(\* Hofhuis et al. 2010)

# Prevention

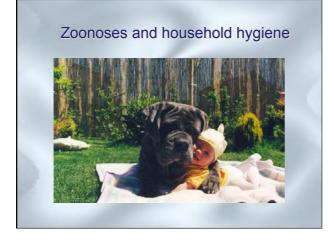
### Target on pregnant women

- don't handle or eat undercooked meat
- hygiene: wear gloves when gardening or handling soil or sandpits
- wash all fruit and vegetables thoroughly
- have someone else empty the litter tray on a daily basis
- ..... removal of the cat not required!











# Owners & pets sleeping together

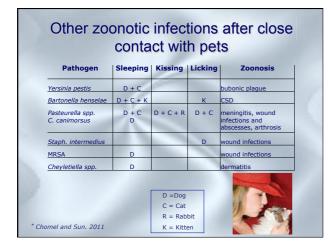
- 56% of the owners sleeps with the dog next to them (USA)
- 62% small dogs 41% medium sized 32% large dogs
- 25% women 16% men
- Cats: 62% slept with adults and 13% with children



# 

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		alences at %	Prevalences dog %		
Giardia	13.6	(3/22)	15.2	(14/92)	
Cryptosporidium	4.6	(1/22)	8.7	(8/92)	
Toxocara feces	4.6	(1/22)	4.4	(4/92)	
Salmonella	0		1.3	(2/152)	
Campylobacter	0		0		
MRSA	0		0		









# Licking faces by pets Overzichtsartikel 29 Bacteriën van huisdieren als oorzaak van maagklachten bij de mens F. Haesebrouck, F. Pasmans, B. Flahou, T. Meyns, M. Vermoote, S. Kumar, K. Chiers, A. Decostere, R. Ducatelle There is clear evidence that animals are the source of gastric infections with non-*H. pylori Helicobacter* species of the human. Although it is not clear how gastric NHPH is transmitted from animals to the human, this is most likely by direct contact.

Licking face by pets

Incidence of acquisition of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium difficile, and other health-care-associated pathogens by dogs that participate in animal-assisted interventions

Sandra L. Lefebvre, dvm, phd; Richard J. Reid-Smith, dvm, dvss; David Waltner-Toews, dvm, phd; J. Scott Weese, dvm, dvsc, dacvir J Am Vet Med Assoc 2009;234:1404-141;

Rates of acquisition of MRSA and *C. difficile* 4.7 resp. 2.4 times higher among dogs that visited human health-care facilities,

Dogs that licked patients or accepted treats during visits were more positive for MRSA and *C. difficile.* 

compared with dogs in other animal-assisted interventions.





# Licking wounds by dog or cat

A bizarre postoperative wound infection

- 73 yrs. old woman 3 months after knee replacement surgery
- Abscess with 20 ml pus
- Wound infection (*P. multocida*) after licking by her dog



# Licking ear by pets

Beware of dogs licking ears THE LANCET - Vol 354 - October 9, 1999

- A 67 yr old patient with right-side chronic purulent otorrhoea (perforated tympanic membrane)
- developed meningitis due to *Pasteurella multocida* transmitted by a dog that frequently licked his ear.





# Significant exotic animal zoonoses (birds, reptiles)

Based on multi-criteria analysis & in terms of infection risk and/or health risk:

- salmonellosis
- psittacosis (Chlamydophila psittaci)
- dermatophytosis





# Salmonella & pets

- FDA banned commercial distribution of turtles < 4 inch (1975)
- Result: 100.000 less salmonellosis in children per year

reptiles

- Number of reptile-related *Salmonella*-serotypes in the human is raising proportional with the popularity of these animals
- All pet shops inform their clients about  $\ensuremath{\textit{Salmonella}}\xspace$  risks with sales of





# Salmonella & pets

- Pet stores, vets and pediatricians should inform owners and potential purchasers of reptiles about risks salmonellosis
- Always wash hands thoroughly after handling reptiles (cages)
- Children < 5 yrs and immunocompromised persons should avoid contact wih reptiles
- Families expecting a new child should remove the pet reptile from the home
- Pet reptiels should not be kept in children-care centers
- Pet reptiles should not be allowed to roam freely in the home
- Avoid contact of children with dog chews

# Answers of the questions

•Should dog and cat bite wounds in the human always be treated with antibiotics?  $\rightarrow$  95% yes (next presentation)

•Are cats allowed with immunosuppressed patients (HIV, splenectomy)?  $\rightarrow$  only if bite and scratch wounds can be prevented

•Is deworming the dog/cat twice a year sufficient to prevent human toxocarosis?  $\rightarrow$  in general: no  $\rightarrow$  tailor-made deworming

•Should pregnant women prevent any contact with cats?  $\rightarrow$  no

•Will a new SARS outbreak require stringent measures regarding cats?





# Control of zoonoses

### Control: issue of veterinarians?

- identifying and eliminating diseases in animals
- however: numerous zoonotic agents in wildlife
   inadequate campaigns
- madequate campaigns
- poor infrastructure developing countries  $\rightarrow$  **zoonotic reservoirs**
- zoonoses are the diseases of the poor

# Control: issue of politicians?

- BSE: an example how a peculiar and vagely understood
- zoonotic agent affected global politics.....

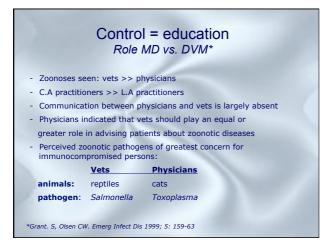
# Control of zoonoses

# • Zoonoses control = interdisciplinary approach:

# - medical

- veterinary
- public health
- animal biology
   entomology
- ornithology
- environmental
- ecology
- politics





# Responsibility of vet (technican)

- -Knowledge of infectious diseases of animals
   -Knowledge about owner animal bond
- -Knowledge of zoonoses and zoonotic risks
- -Responsible for important part of zoonosis control

# Education of the owner is task

of vet and veterinary technician!



