

ZOO NOTIC AGENTS OF CONCERN IN RODENTS AND RABBITS BRED FOR RESEARCH

Zoonotic Disease and Agent	Host	Transmission	Incubation Period (Time from exposure to onset of symptoms).	Signs/Symptoms
Dermatomycosis (Ringworm) <i>Microsporum canis</i> , <i>Trichophyton</i> spp.	Many animal species	Transmission is by direct skin-to-skin contact with infected animals or indirect contact with contaminated equipment or materials.	4 – 14 days	Dermatophytes grow in keratinized tissue (skin, hair, nails, horns and feathers); characterized by focal, flat, spreading circular lesions that are clear in the center and crusted, scaly and reddened at the periphery. Invasive, systemic infections have been reported in immunocompromised people.
Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV), Arenaviridae family	Rodents – Immunodeficient (athymic and severe – combined – immunodeficiency (SCID)) rodents can pose a special risk of carrying silent, chronic infections.	Parenteral inoculation, inhalation, contamination of mucous membranes or broken skin and aerosol transmission. May occur <i>in utero</i> or by bite of an infected ectoparasite.	1 – 3 weeks.	Influenza – like illness characterized by fever, generalized weakness, and headache. In severe cases, a discolored skin rash and enlarged lymph nodes can develop.
Salmonellosis <i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Many animal species	Fecal – oral route.	6 – 72 hours, usually 12 – 36 hours	Infection causes a sudden onset of headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea and sometimes vomiting. Focal infections can be localized in any tissue of the body with signs related to the area of infection. Immunosuppressed people are at extra risk.
Tetanus	<i>Please refer to the Tetanus Facts Sheet</i>			

References:

Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals, National Research Council, National Academy Press, Washington D.C. 1997.

Hugh-Jones M.E. et al. 1995. *An Outline of the Zoonoses*. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa.

Benenson, A.S. 1995. *Control of Communicable Disease in Man*. Am. Public Health Assoc., Washington D.C.