

WHAT IS RIFT VALLEY FEVER?

Rift Valley fever is a viral disease of animals, but can also infect humans (zoonosis).

WHICH SPECIES OF ANIMALS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO RIFT VALLEY FEVER VIRUS?

Sheep, goats and cattle are most commonly affected, but camels and other ruminants can also be affected. Dogs and cats may have transient viremia.

WHY RIFT VALLEY FEVER IS IT IMPORTANT TO BE CONTROLLED?

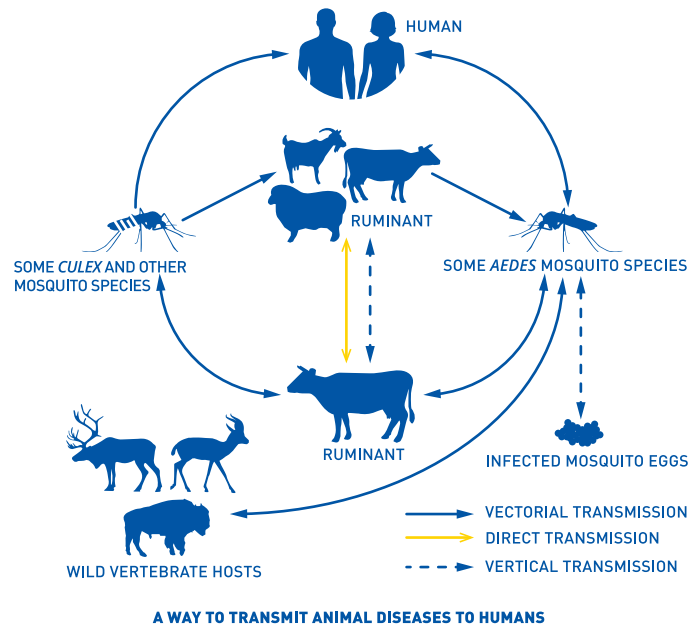
The disease is zoonosis that is transmitted by mosquito vectors. Outbreaks of this disease can lead to major economic losses (due to death, abortion in animals, etc.).

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF RVF VIRUS?

Rift Valley Fever is present mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. The disease has been present in Saudi Arabia and Yemen since 2000. So far, no virus has been reported in Europe. However, in several European countries, vectors are known to be infected, which is a real possibility for viruses to emerge on the European continent.

HOW IS RIFT VALLEY FEVER VIRUS TRANSMITTED?

Animals can be infected by infected animals or by vector. Different types of mosquitoes are carriers of this virus, especially during the rainy years when their numbers are highest.



WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISK ASSOCIATED WITH RVF?

Humans working in slaughter facilities, laboratories or hospitals are at risk of acquiring infections.

The clinical picture of people is similar to influenza virus. Humans may become infected with RVF virus through contact with blood, other body fluids or tissues during killing, skinning and cutting of infected animals, or by consumption of raw milk or uncooked meat from infected animals.

People can develop different diseases following infection: febrile illness, ocular disease, haemorrhagic fever, or encephalitis.

RVF virus is transmitted from either mosquitoes or farm animals to humans, but cannot be transmitted from person to person.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF THE DISEASE?

- Young animals can develop fever, weakness and depression, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, diarrhea, bloody stools and sudden death may occur. In lambs and calves, the disease can progress rapidly, causing the animals to become weak and die suddenly. An increased percentage of deaths of young animals in the herd may occur;
- In older animals, the infection is generally mild or asymptomatic. Clinical symptoms include abortions, fever, loss of appetite, weakness and depression, vomiting, diarrhea and bleeding stools, rapid breathing, increased nasal secretions, increased salivary secretion. The percentage of miscarriages in infected herds can be up to 85% in cattle, or 100% in sheep.



STILLBORN LAMBS



ANOREXIA AND DEPRESSION IN DISEASED ANIMALS

HOW TO PREVENT AND CONTROL RIFT VALLEY FEVER VIRUSES?

- Regular control of the animals' health;
- Regular control of vector populations - transmission of infections (mosquitoes), by spraying and monitoring their habitats;
- Regular control of the movement of animals and the trade of food and products of animal origin;

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I SUSPECT RIFT VALLEY FEVER?

If you suspect the disease, consult your veterinarian or veterinary inspector immediately.



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RIFT VALLEY FEVER

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WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS DISEASE?

