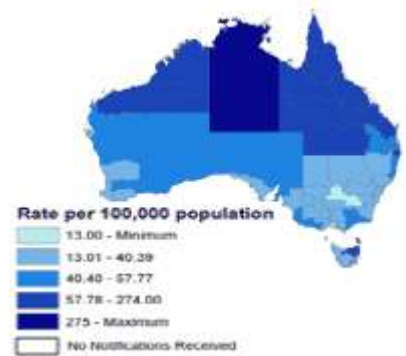







Zoonoses Fact Sheet: Salmonella

Gastrointestinal diseases are a major problem in young children in Indigenous communities, and an important factor in failure to thrive. In Western Australia, hospitalisation for gastroenteritis was 7 times higher in Aboriginal children than Non- Aboriginal children (Gracey and Cullinane 2003). Diarrheal episodes were associated with the presence of potential zoonotic pathogens including *Salmonella* spp. (Gunzburg et al 1992). Nationally, rates of salmonellosis in humans (per 100,000 population) are highest in the NT.



FACT: Salmonella always has a zoonotic origin.

<p>What is Salmonella?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonella is a bacteria that lives in the guts of people and other animals, such as wildlife and dogs. There are many different types or strains of Salmonella. • Salmonella is a common cause of diarrhoea in people. It can also cause serious blood poisoning. • People and dogs can share Salmonella bacteria. • The photo on the left shows Salmonella bacteria under a microscope. 
<p>How does it spread?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonellas pass from the gut into the environment with the faeces. • They can survive longer in wet areas, like puddles of water around houses or in rubbish. • The bacteria can then be spread from the rubbish to food and mouths by cockroaches, flies and dogs. • People and dogs can then get Salmonella from dirty hands, from meat that is not well cooked, or meat that is left out of the fridge. 
<p>How do dogs help spread</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmonellas that cause disease in people have been found in dogs (Brown 2006), but it's unclear what the exact role of the dog is in the spread of disease to people. • Salmonella can originate from various sources, including birds, fish and reptiles. Dogs may be one of the sources of salmonella. • Dogs may also play a part in transferring Salmonella from other sources, such as baby's nappies (kimbies), or from food, to people. • Dogs that drink from ground water or that eat rubbish can get infected and continue the cycle of disease. • Dogs lying outside can get Salmonella on their coats, which can then get onto people's hands when they touch dogs
<p>How do we control Salmonella?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend to poor health infrastructure (refrigeration, washing machines, dripping taps, boggy areas in yards, water sources) • Raise awareness of the risks of inadequate hygiene (understanding of importance of germ theory, hand washing, food preparation, house cleaning, and removal of dog faeces from yards. • Provide and fill drinking containers for dogs so they have a clean water source • Improve general dog health: Animals under nutritional stress have higher prevalence and intensity of <i>Salmonella</i> in their faeces. • Reduce dog breeding: younger dogs produce more salmonella in their faeces.

Source: Dr Sam Phelan, Dog Health Programs in Indigenous communities, an Environmental Health Practitioner's Guide, AMRRIC, 2010

Brown G.K. (2006). Dogs Dwellings and Diseases: investigating links between dog health and human health in a remote Aboriginal community. Proceedings of Dog People Amrric International Conference, Darwin. P 109-115

Gunzburg S., Gracey M., et al. (1992). "Epidemiology and microbiology of diarrhoea in young Aboriginal children in the Kimberley region of Western Australia." *Epidemiology. Infect.* **108**: 67-76.

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