# Zoonotic Diseases of Dogs FACT SHEET



# A zoonosis is a disease that can spread between animals and people.

In Australia there are at least 89 zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are caused by tiny living things called pathogens that can make people and/or animals sick. Zoonotic diseases can be spread between humans and animals in two ways:

- 1. Directly between animals and people
- 2. Indirectly diseases that spread between animals and people by an inanimate object, food, water, soil, or an insect vector.

# Potential Zoonotic Pathogens of Dogs in Indigenous Communities



Bacteria are tiny organisms or living things that are too small to be seen with the naked eye. Bacteria are all around us, living in the water, soil and even the human body. There are many types of bacteria, but only a few of them can cause disease, such as diarrhoea, skin sores, kidney infections and blood diseases.

## Examples:

- Bordetella bronchiseptica
- Brucellosis (Brucella suis)
- Campylobacteriosis (*Campylobacter* spp.)
- Ehrlichiosis (Ehrlichia canis)
- Leptospirosis (*Leptospira* spp.)
- Pasturella spp.
- Plague (Yersinia pestis)
- Q Fever (Coxiella burnetti)
- Salmonellosis (Salmonella spp.)
- Streptococcus spp.
- Staphylococcus spp.

Protozoa are another family of tiny living things that are bigger than bacteria but cannot be seen without Examples: a microscope. Some protozoa are parasites which means the need to live on or in another animal or plan to survive. Many of the protozoa cause diarrhoea.

- Cryptosporidiosis (Cryptosporidium spp.)
- Giardiasis (Giardia duodenalis)





Fungi are group of plant-like organisms, which includes mushrooms and mould. Zoonotic fungi are bigger than bacteria but still too small to be seen and usually cause skin disease. People with weak immune systems are more likely to get fungal infections.

# Examples:

- Ringworm:
  - Microsporum canis
  - Trichophyton mentagrophytes
- Sporotrichosis (*Sporothrix* spp.)

Parasitic worms are usually endoparasites" meaning that the live inside the body of another animal (like a cat or a human). While the adult worms can sometimes be seen in the feces, the eggs and baby worms (larvae) are too small to see. Most parasitic worms cause upset stomach or diarrhea, but they can also cause skin rashes.

# Examples:

- Flea tapeworm (Dipylidum caninum)
- Heartworm (Dirofilaria immitis)
- Hookworms:
  - Ancyclostoma spp.
  - Unicinaria stenocephala
- Roundworms:
  - Strongyloides stercoralis
  - Ioxocara canis
- Tapeworms:
  - Echinococcosis (Echinococcus granulosus)
  - Taenia spp.
  - Sparganosis (Spirometra spp.)
- Trichuris vulpis





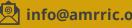
Ectoparasites are small insects that live on animals like cats and people and depend on them for their food. While mites are usually too small to see, ticks and fleas are bigger and can be seen with the naked eye. Most ectoparasites cause skin disease, including hair loss and itching. Some ectoparasites can also spread other diseases.

# Examples:

- Cat flea (Ctenocephalides felis)
- Paralysis tick (Ixodes holocyclis)
- Brown Dog Tick (Rhipicephalus sanguineus)
- Scabies (Sarcoptes scabiei var canis)







For more information on zoonotic diseases contact us at:

