

*Perspective***Note on diseases caused by swine****Guang Yang\***

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**DESCRIPTION**

It is permissible to maintain one small potbellied pig per household in the city of Seattle if it weighs less than 150 pounds and is spayed or neutered. To avoid infection from diseases conveyed by fecal-oral contact, carefully wash hands following contact with pigs or their faeces.

**Campylobacteriosis**

Campylobacteriosis is an intestine infection caused by the *Campylobacter* bacteria. Infected animals' faeces and food products contaminated with the bacteria during processing or preparation are major sources of the bacteria. One of the most common sources of human infection is raw or undercooked chicken.

**Cryptosporidiosis**

Cryptosporidiosis is caused by an infection with the *Cryptosporidium parvum* parasite. Cysts (eggs) are produced by the parasite and passed in the stool of infected people or animals. In wet conditions, the cysts can live for 2–6 months and are widely found in lakes and streams. The parasite is transmitted by the feces-oral pathway. Infected people and animals can contract the disease by drinking polluted water, eating contaminated food, or coming into direct contact with infected people or animals. About half of all dairy calves are affected with cysts and shed cysts. Diarrhea and stomach pains are common symptoms of infection. In healthy people, the sickness is self-limiting, but in patients with compromised immune systems, it can last longer and be more serious.

**Influenza**

Influenza, also known as the “flu,” is a contagious virus that affects both humans and animals. It is most usually associated with a temperature and breathing difficulties. There are three

types of influenza viruses: influenza A, B, and C. The influenza A virus is the most common, affecting both people and animals. There are several different subtypes of influenza type A. Most subtypes impact just certain animal species (for example, poultry), while other subtypes may affect multiple species for e.g., birds, pigs and humans.

A, B, C, and D are the four kinds of influenza viruses. Human influenza A and B viruses cause seasonal epidemics of sickness (known as flu season) practically every winter in the United States. The only influenza viruses known to generate pandemics, or worldwide outbreaks of flu, are influenza A viruses. When a new and unusual influenza A virus evolves that both infects people and has the ability to spread quickly among them, a pandemic can ensue. Infections with the influenza C virus usually cause only mild disease and are not thought to create human epidemics. Influenza D viruses are mostly found in cattle and are not known to infect or sicken humans.

**Leptospirosis in humans**

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by the bacteria *Leptospira*, which infects both humans and animals. It can be found all around the world, but it is more frequent in temperate and tropical climates. Some people infected with leptospirosis will experience no symptoms at all, while others will become quite sick. Cattle, pigs, dogs, raccoons and rodents, among other wild and domestic animals, carry the *Leptospira* bacterium and pass it on in their urine. The most prevalent route of human infection is through soil or water contaminated with infected urine.

**Rabies**

While bat strain rabies is responsible for nearly all human rabies in the United States, rabies in domestic animals remains a concern. In the United States, cats are the domestic animal most likely to be diagnosed with rabies. In 2009, 300 instances of cat flu were reported, compared to 81 cases of dog flu, 74 cases of

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cattle, and 41 cases of horses and mules. These are domestic animals that have been bitten and infected by wildlife. All cats

must be vaccinated against rabies by the age of four months, and immunity must be maintained with booster injections.