



ZOONOTIC CONCERN

coxiellosis or Q fever

Cause: *Coxiella burnetii*

Occurrence in animals: various wild and domestic species, particularly ruminants

Source in animals: placenta and amniotic fluids, also possible in milk and urine

Exposure: inhalation or accidental ingestion

Symptoms:

- Animals:
 - frequently asymptomatic
 - may cause abortion
- Humans:
 - acute fever, headache, weakness, fatigue
 - pneumonia, hepatitis, heart valve infection
 - asymptomatic infection is possible
 - **people with chronic heart conditions are at a greater risk and should consult with their physician before exposure**

Precautions:

- Good personal hygiene:
 - **WASH HANDS** after handling animals.
 - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals and their environment.
- Healthy animals can shed microorganisms.
- Organisms can persist up to several months in the environment.
- Wear gloves to handle placenta or birth fluids.
- Face mask is recommended for additional protection.
- Barn clothes and boots can carry microorganisms to other areas.
- Do not drink raw, unpasteurized milk.

Additional information about coxiellosis can be found at:

- http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_q_fever.htm
- <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds43e.html>
- http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/q_fever.pdf
- <http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/Documents/OHP/QFEVER.pdf>