

Animal Users Health and Safety Program

# **ZOONOTIC CONCERN**

## hantavirus infection

**Cause:** Hantavirus

**Occurrence in animals:** wild rodents

Source in animals: urine, feces, respiratory secretions, and saliva

**Exposure:** inhalation of infectious aerosols

### Symptoms:

- Animals:
  - asymptomatic
- Humans:
  - usually flu-like symptoms (fever, fatigue, muscle ache, headache)
  - could lead to respiratory failure and death

### **Precautions:**

- Good personal hygiene:
  - WASH HANDS after handling animals and their environment
  - No eating, drinking, smoking, ... around animals
- Wear gloves and a face mask when working with wild rodents or in potentially contaminated areas
- If accidental exposure should occur, seek medical attention immediately
- Organism can persist for a few days in the environment

#### Additional information about hantavirus can be found at:

http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/CARE710.pdf http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/msds-ftss/msds74e.html http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/hantavirus.pdf

Environmental Health & Safety 607-255 8200 http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/

Occupational Medicine at Gannett Center for Animal Resources and Education 607-255 6960 http://www.gannett.cornell.edu/

607-2534378 http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/