



## TULAREMIA

### WHAT IS TULAREMIA?

TULAREMIA IS A BACTERIAL DISEASE OF BOTH ANIMALS AND HUMANS. ALTHOUGH MANY WILD AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS HAVE BEEN INFECTED, THE RABBIT IS MOST OFTEN INVOLVED IN DISEASE OUTBREAKS.

### WHO GETS TULAREMIA?

HUNTERS OR OTHER PEOPLE WHO SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME OUT OF DOORS ARE AT A GREATER RISK OF GETTING TULAREMIA. VETERINARIANS AND THOSE WORKING WITH BIRDS OF PREY (BY HANDLING RABBITS AS FOOD FOR THE BIRD) ALSO GET THE DISEASE.

### HOW IS TULAREMIA SPREAD?

TULAREMIA IS COMMONLY SPREAD BY CONTACT OF THE SKIN OR MUCOUS MEMBRANES WITH BLOOD OR TISSUE WHILE HANDLING INFECTED ANIMALS, BITES FROM INFECTED DEER FLIES OR TICKS, OR HANDLING OR EATING IMPROPERLY COOKED RABBIT MEAT. LESS COMMON WAYS OF GETTING THE DISEASE ARE DRINKING INFECTED WATER, BREATHING DUST FROM INFECTED SOIL OR TOUCHING INFECTED PELTS OR PAWS OF ANIMALS.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF TULAREMIA?

WHEN THE BACTERIA ENTER THROUGH THE SKIN, TULAREMIA CAN BE RECOGNIZED BY SKIN LESIONS AND SWOLLEN GLANDS. INGESTION OF THE ORGANISM MAY PRODUCE A THROAT INFECTION, INTESTINAL PAIN, DIARRHEA AND VOMITING. BREATHING THE BACTERIA CAN CAUSE FEVER ALONE OR FEVER COMBINED WITH A PNEUMONIA-LIKE ILLNESS. PNEUMONIA WITH TULAREMIA MAY ALSO OCCUR WITH INFECTION THROUGH THE SKIN OR BY INGESTION.

### HOW SOON DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS GENERALLY APPEAR BETWEEN 2 AND 10 DAYS, BUT USUALLY AFTER THREE DAYS.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR TULAREMIA?

CERTAIN MEDICATIONS ARE EFFECTIVE IN TREATING TULAREMIA.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF TULAREMIA?

RUBBER GLOVES SHOULD BE WORN WHEN SKINNING OR HANDLING ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY RABBITS. WILD RABBIT AND RODENT MEAT SHOULD BE COOKED THOROUGHLY BEFORE EATING. AVOID BITES OF DEER FLIES AND TICKS AND AVOID DRINKING UNSAFE WATER. GLOVES SHOULD BE WORN AND HANDS SHOULD BE WASHED WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER TOUCHING DEAD ANIMAL PARTS.