

Rift Valley Fever



The risk of RVF transmission is highest following periods of heavy rains or flooding.

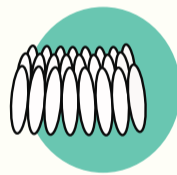
The disease is spread by mosquitoes and affects animals and humans.
Affects small ruminants, cattle, water buffaloes and camels.
Pregnant and young animals are particularly susceptible.

Animals

Recognizing RVF

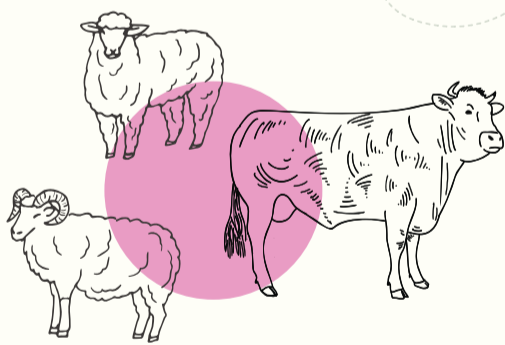
- Signs are unspecific and include: fever, abortion and sudden death in young animals, weakness, depression, anorexia, diarrhoea, discharge and blood from the nose.
- Abortion: Especially in sheep, abortion is one of the main signs. It can affect all pregnant animals within the herd in what is known as "abortion storms".

Transmission



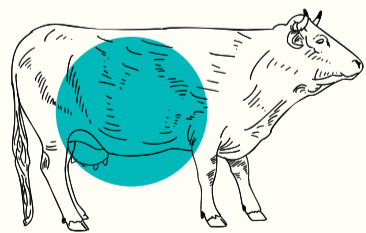
Transmission from the parent mosquito to their offspring (mosquito eggs).

Bites from infected mosquitoes



Contact with blood and body fluids of infected animals.

From a pregnant animal to the unborn foetus.



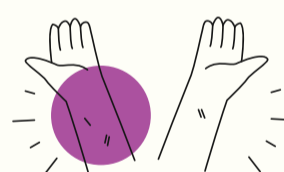
Humans

Recognizing RVF

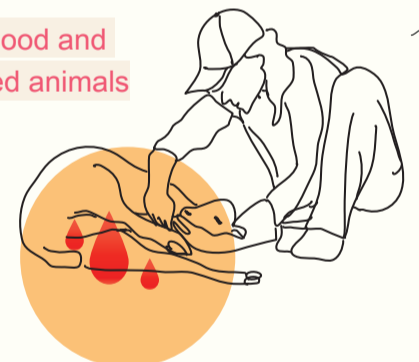
- The disease can vary from mild to severe. The mild form is more common, causing flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle pain and headache. The severe form occurs in a small number of people and can cause blurred or decreased vision, neurological symptoms and haemorrhages.
- People working in contact with animals (veterinarians, animal health workers, slaughterhouse workers, farmers, herders, lab workers) are at a greater risk of becoming infected.

Transmission

Contact with blood and fluids of infected animals



Bites from infected mosquitoes



Human-to-human transmission does not occur (although rare cases of transmission from mother to baby have been documented).



Consuming raw milk or meat which is improperly cooked



Suspicious signs, such as sudden onset of abortions and deaths in animals, especially during periods of increased mosquito activity, **should be reported to local authorities immediately.**