

DISEASES IN WILDLIFE

Prepared by Debra Spilar

Raccoons	• Rabies (FATAL) – Zoonotic - transmitted through saliva/bite - Fever, anorexia, dehydration, lethargy, disorientation, seizures, paralysis, coma • Distemper (FATAL) - Congested, nasal discharge, crusted or leaking eyes, labored breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, trembling, green tinged eyes, ulcers on feet, neurological symptoms, wander aimlessly, unusual jaw movements, fearless to humans • Parvovirus (FATAL) - transmitted through feces, extremely contagious, bloody foul-smelling diarrhea, lack of appetite, fever, vomiting, dehydration, weak, lethargic • Baylisascaris (Raccoon roundworm) – Zoonotic – Intestinal roundworm - No clinical or pathological symptoms are observed in raccoons. Eggs are passed through feces.
Bats	• White-nose syndrome – looks like white fuzz (fungus) on bats face, ears and wings, poor body condition (emaciation and dehydration), behavioural changes • Rabies (FATAL) – Zoonotic - transmitted through saliva/bite - Fever, anorexia, dehydration, lethargy, disorientation, seizures, paralysis, coma
Rabbits	• Hemorrhagic (RHD) – highly contagious among rabbits, spread through saliva, nasal secretions, urine, manure, blood, fur or carcasses of infected animals. Clinical signs are difficulty breathing, bleeding, loss of appetite, lethargy, fever, blood spots in eyes, frothy and bloody discharge from the nose, groaning, jaundice, seizures, difficulty walking, sudden death • Bordetella – Upper respiratory, coughing, sneezing, ocular discharge, anorexia, pneumonia • E. Cuniculi – parasite causing neurologic and renal disease involving central nervous system, eyes and kidneys - symptoms appear sudden, include head tilt, ataxia, circling. Symptoms of renal impairment include increased water consumption, increased urine output, loss of appetite, weight loss, lethargy and dehydration. • Degloving – when skin and the fat below are torn away from the underlying. Can occur anywhere in the body.
Turtles	• Herpes virus – tumors on face, genitals, tail, shell and internal organs • Rana virus – lesions open on face/neck & swell of limbs or body, abnormal swimming, lethargy, fluid accumulation in the body, skin hemorrhage, skin ulcers • Shell Rot – Grey or whitish spots, soft spots, discoloration, foul odor • Salmonella – resides in their gut, and any feces should be properly handled
Skunks	• Rabies (FATAL) – Zoonotic - transmitted through saliva/bite - Fever, anorexia, dehydration, lethargy, disorientation, seizures, paralysis, coma • Distemper (FATAL) - Congested, nasal discharge, crusted or leaking eyes, labored breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, trembling, green tinged eyes, ulcers on feet, neurological symptoms, wander aimlessly, unusual jaw movements, fearless to humans • Parvovirus (FATAL) - transmitted through feces, extremely contagious, bloody foul-smelling diarrhea, lack of appetite, fever, vomiting, dehydration, weak, lethargic • Roundworm – all skunks can have it – bad breath, coughing, lack of appetite, bloating, hiccups, rectal prolapse. • Adenovirus – can be a carrier - asymptomatic - NEVER put porcupines in same area as skunks
Deer	• Lymes – Zoonotic - transmitted through ticks • Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) – extreme weight loss, lack of coordination, drooping head/ears, excessive drooling, excessive drinking, excessive urination. • Dehydration – ears are curled down instead of straight up

Fox/Coyote	• Mange – Loss of fur, scaly skin, skin infections, emaciated, lethargic, scruffy, thin, itchy • Rabies (FATAL) -Zoonotic - transmitted through saliva/bite - Fever, anorexia, dehydration, lethargy, disorientation, seizures, paralysis, coma • Distemper (FATAL) - Congested, nasal discharge, crusted or leaking eyes, labored breathing, diarrhea, vomiting, seizures, trembling, green tinged eyes, ulcers on feet, neurological symptoms, wander aimlessly, unusual jaw movements, fearless to humans • Parvovirus (FATAL) - transmitted through feces, extremely contagious, bloody foul-smelling diarrhea, lack of appetite, fever, vomiting, dehydration, weak, lethargic • HPAI – Zoonotic - decreased in food and water consumption, depression, septicemia, hemorrhages on hocks, severe edema of eyelids, lack of energy or movement, nervousness, tremors, lack of coordination, swelling around the head, neck and eyes, coughing, gasping for air or sneezing, diarrhea, sudden death
Squirrels	• Squirrel Pox – Urine smells like apple juice or tinny, characteristics of chicken pox, mange and scablike symptoms • Bordetella – respiratory disease (Contagious)– sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, depression
Birds	• HPAI – Zoonotic - decreased in food and water consumption, depression, septicemia, hemorrhages on hocks, severe edema of eyelids, lack of energy or movement, nervousness, tremors, lack of coordination, swelling around the head, neck and eyes, coughing, gasping for air or sneezing, diarrhea, sudden death • West-Nile – Zoonotic - transmitted from mosquitoes – weakness, stumbling, trembling, head tremors, inability to fly, lack of awareness allowing them to easily be handled • Angel Wing – Related to a deficiency in diet. Not contagious. The carpal joint on the wing grows outward instead of being flush to the body rendering them unable to fly.
Opossums	• Metabolic Bone Disease – too much protein in diet, reluctant to climb, depressed grip in hands/feet and in strength of limbs or tail, will not run, walks like on egg shells, limbs appear to be stocky or chubby, fractures are possible, walks crouched posture, loss of appetite, hands and feet have abnormal postures with little use. • CANNOT get Rabies or Lymes disease
Porcupines	• Adenovirus – rapid or open mouth breathing, foaming or drooling at the mouth, bloody diarrhea, and weakness, seizures • Bordetella – respiratory disease (Contagious)– sneezing, coughing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, depression • NEVER put porcupines in same area as skunks
Hyperthermia	• Exposure to high temperatures, sunburn, seizures, increased dehydration
Hypothermia	• Body temp drops below that required – pulse and respiratory is low, pale/white/gray coloring, shivering, sluggishness, dull or slow response to stimuli, shallow breathing
Dehydration	• Dry mucous membranes, tongue dried and cracked, tongue white, sunken eyes, skin wrinkled, pale gums,
Maggots	• Found in body orifices or wounds, look like white cartilage that squiggles
Leptospirosis	• Zoonotic - Fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, refusal to eat, severe weakness and depression, stiffness severe muscle pain, bloating
Capture myopathy	• Rabbits, fawns, birds – a disorder resulting from the stress of being chased, captured or being held. NO CLINICAL SIGNS, they just simply die.
Bot Fly	• Their <u>larvae</u> are internal <u>parasites</u> of <u>mammals</u>, some species growing in the host's flesh and others within the gut. Botflies burrow inside a living host, animal or human, to gestate until they burst out of the host's skin..