Bottom of Form

**Frog Zoonoses** 

***Salmonella***

Salmonellosis is caused by the bacteria Salmonella. Reptiles are asymptomatic carriers of Salmonella and transmit the disease in their feces. Most commonly Salmonella is characterized by fever, diarrhea and cramps. Septicemia can occur in the young, elderly and immunocompromised. The disease is treatable with antibiotics.

***Sparganosis***

Sparganosis is caused by a pseudophyllidean cestode, a tapeworm, in its intermediate metacestode stage. The parasite is most commonly transmitted by ingestion of contaminated meat or water, but it can be transmitted by direct contact with infected animals. Once ingested the larva undergo visceral migration and can mature in various tissues, most commonly muscle, but also the eye and the brain.

***Gastrointestinal Diseases***

Frogs can be the source of gastrointestinal disease, mainly *Escherichia coli*, which is transmitted by the ingestion of feces or contact with any contaminated substance. This infectious agent causes acute gastroenteritis, characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain and fever. Most commonly clinical signs are short-lived, but may require supportive care or antibiotics.

***Allergic Reactions to Amphibians***

Human sensitivity to amphibian proteins in the laboratory setting is rare. It remains possible however, to become sensitized to amphibian proteins through inhalation or skin contact.

**How to Protect Yourself**

* Enroll in the UWM Occupational Health Program for Personnel with Laboratory Animal Contact.
* Wash your hands. The single most effective preventative measure that can be taken is regular hand washing. Wash hands and arms after handling any animal or any related equipment, and never drink or eat in the animal rooms.
* Follow posted Personal Protective Equipment requirements. Never wear protective equipment outside of animal areas.
* For more information: http://www.cdc.gov