Animal Surveillance Case Definition
Salmonella Infection (Salmonellosis)

Clinical description

A communicable disease of animals and people caused by Gram-negative, rod-shaped, *Salmonella* bacteria*.* Salmonella has a wide range of susceptible domestic and wild animal hosts, from mammals to reptiles to birds. In some animals, such as reptiles (i.e., turtles and iguanas), birds, and cattle, long-term asymptomatic carriage has been demonstrated. Dogs and cats can become infected and shed the organism as either symptomatic or asymptomatic cases, but do not usually become long-term carriers. Canine and feline clinical cases are characterized by diarrhea (with or without blood), fever, anorexia, and vomiting, sometimes progressing to septicemia. The usual interval between exposure and onset of illness ranges from 6 hours to 3 days, but is usually 12 to 36 hours. Clinical cases are often associated with stress, poor nutrition, overcrowding, antibiotic therapy, and surgery. *Salmonella* infections are more common in animal shelters and kennels than in private homes. Untreated animals may shed the organism in feces for as long as 6 weeks after clinical recovery. Human infections are usually caused by ingestion of contaminated food, unpasteurized milk/milk products, and water; but humans have become infected from direct contact with pets, especially reptiles, and their feces.

Case classification

Confirmed

+/- compatible clinical signs **and**

o Isolation of *Salmonella* from a clinical specimen by culture, usually of feces.

Note: Due to intermittent shedding, three negative fecal cultures at two week intervals are required to consider an animal free of salmonella.

Suspect

o A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.