

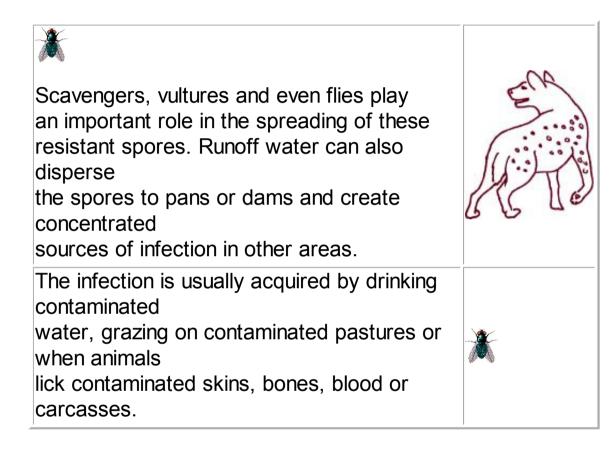
Anthrax is a highly contagious disease of domestic and wild animals which can affect humans

- Animals usually die suddenly without any symptoms of illness
- There is, however, an effective vaccine to prevent the disease
- The correct handling of affected carcasses will also prevent the spread of the disease

#### What causes anthrax?

The disease is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. When animals die of anthrax

and particularly when carcasses are cut open, resistant spores are formed which can survive in the soil for many years. The bloody discharge from the nostrils, mouth and anus, as well as skin, bone and other tissue is important in the spreading of the disease.



#### Can animals or humans be treated for the disease?

- Animals often die before the disease can be diagnosed or the animals treated
- Humans and resistant animals, such as pigs, dogs and horses can, however, be treated with antibiotics

## Consult your doctor if contact with anthrax is suspected

#### Control

#### **Animals**

- ♦ Vaccinate livestock annually against anthrax
- Do not cut open carcasses of animals which have died if anthrax is suspected
- Bury these carcasses at a depth of at least 2 metres and treat the soil liberally with chloride of lime
- Carcasses may also be burnt without cutting them open
- Report suspected cases immediately to the nearest animal health technician or state veterinarian
- The state veterinarian may prescribe methods to disinfect the premises, transport vehicles and other products

#### Humans

- The carcasses of affected animals should never be eaten!!
- Avoid direct contact with a carcass of an animal suspected to have died of anthrax. Always wear protective clothing when the carcass is buried or burnt

### What are the symptoms of anthrax?

Animals may die within 2 hours without showing any signs of illness (sudden death)

- Fever
- Difficult breathing
- Muscle tremors and redness of the mucous membranes may be observed
- Blood-stained discharge from the nostrils, mouth and anus
- Advanced cases may have a swelling of the throat and neck. This could lead to breathing problems and difficulty in swallowing

# How can anthrax be diagnosed?

Anthrax is diagnosed by microscopic examination of a bloodsmear. Consult your local veterinarian or animal health technician in this regard



Never cut open the carcass or eat the meat of an animal that has died suddenly!!

### How do humans contract the disease?

- **•** Direct contact with affected animals or animal products
- Inhaling dust which contains spores

# • Ingesting infected meat

Although people normally contract a skin form of the disease, death may occur in humans as a result of anthrax

Anthrax can be prevented with the cooperation of every farmer!! If anthrax is suspected carcasses should never be handled, cut open or eaten!!

For further information contact your nearest state veterinarian or animal health technician

or

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