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Infections linked to wildlife

The OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, met in Paris in February, 2004 to study relationships between emerging infections in wildlife, humans, and domestic animals.

“Several emerging infectious diseases have been identified in animals and humans in different regions of the world. Recent examples include bovine tuberculosis, monkey pox, rabies, West Nile virus, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and avian influenza also known as bird flu.” Theories being considered for this increased transmission of pathogens across the species divide include:

1. Expanding human populations with increased

- contact with wild animals,
2. Wildlife associated microbes entering livestock-based agricultural systems,
3. Intensification of wildlife farming,
4. Increasingly mobile human populations,
5. Increased movement of animals and animal products via international trade

Editor's comment: What about genetic engineering?

For more information

“Emerging Infectious Diseases: The Wildlife Connection,” OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases, Press release, March 2004, http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_040308.htm Pearl River, N.Y.