SAFETY CULTURE ON A LIVESTOCK FARM AND PREVENTION OF ZOONOSES

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Veterinarians in buiatrics practice are not responsible just for caring for animal health and welfare, but also for protection of personnel assisting them as well as personnel dealing with livestock from zoonoses. So, it is our duty to be knowledgeable about common zoonotic diseases of ruminants, and especially how people can protect themselves from contracting them. Veterinarians should know which zoonotic diseases are present in their country and neighboring countries in order to be prepared in case of an outbreak. Zoonotic diseases of ruminants often do not show typical clinical presentation, so awareness of how to safely behave when dealing with livestock in order to prevent zoonoses is very important. In the paper ruminant zoonoses common in Middle Europe are going to be presented as well as behaviors of people that prevent their transmission.

Analysis of the most common zoonoses of domestic ruminants that are transmitted when handling animals and the ways they are transmitted to humans were studied. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control database was used for identification of domestic ruminant's zoonoses in Middle European countries, which is a result of EU member state reporting according to Zoonoses Directive 2003/99/EC and peer reviewed literature.

Identified zoonoses that could be transmitted by direct and indirect contact with live animals in Middle Europe are cryptosporidiosis, rabies, infections with parapox viruses, leptospirosis, tuberculosis, listeriosis, brucellosis, Q fever, chlamydiosis, salmonellosis, campylobacteriosis, colibacillosis, clostridiosis, anthrax, staphylococcal infections and dermatomycosis. Use of appropriate personal protective equipment and adequate hygiene can effectively prevent most zoonoses. Especially vulnerable for contracting a zoonosis are persons on immunosuppressive medication, those who have immunosuppressive diseases, children and pregnant women.

The risk of zoonosis cannot be eliminated but can be significantly reduced by following preventive measures. For nearly all the diseases there is a relationship between dose and severity. A threshold dose is required to establish infection, and low doses may cause only mild infections, which can also be asymptomatic. Developing risk control tools for better safety culture and risk management on farms is important. Safety culture when dealing with animals as potential risk for zoonosis has a major effect on preventing them. In order to reduce zoonoses on a farm strict biosecurity plan and systematic surveillance should be implemented as well.

Keywords: DISEASE TRANSMISSION, SAFETY, WORKER, RUMINANTS, ZOONOTIC AGENTS

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