

ZOONOTIC DISEASE AS A HEALTH HAZARD FOR OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN AND GAME PROCESSORS.

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INTRODUCTION

- Zoonoses/ zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans or vice versa (humans to animals).
- The reservoirs that were studied for transmission of zoonotic diseases : White-tailed Deer, Common American Opossum, and North American Raccoons.
- The zoonotic diseases that were studied
- *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, Leptospirosis, *Trypanosoma Cruzi*/ Chagas Disease, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (Deer tick), *Amblyomma americanum* (Lone star tick)

METHODS

- Retrospective analysis of scientific literature, journals and articles were used to identify and cataloged.
- A data base of no less than 30 resources printed within the last 10 years (circa 2011-2021).
- A brochure was created to be given to Georgia's hunters, game processors, and taxidermists working with the identified species of animals.

RESULTS

- A brochure was developed, to provide public health documents to educate specific populations on the potential dangers that can occur when handling the carcasses of these animals.
- The brochure will be handed out at Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources quota hunts during 2021-22 deer season to deer hunters at quota hunt check-in areas, processing employees and taxidermists.

DISCUSSION

- The White-tailed Deer is the main reservoir host for the pathogen *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*. This host may support the full life cycle of the Lone star tick,
- Raccoons are known for carrying leptospirosis, with the possibilities of being transmitted directly or indirectly. Main sources are contaminated water sources and soil.
- Opossums have been identified as important reservoir hosts for Chagas disease.

Table 1, shows the host and the diseases that they can potentially carry.

TABLE 1

SUBJECTS AND DISEASES			
Diseases	White Tail Deer	Opossum	Raccoon
Ehrlichia chaffeensis	x		x
Anaplasma phagocytophilum	x	x	
Leptospirosis	x	x	x
Amblyomma Americanum	x		
Chagas Disease		x	x

CONCLUSION

- Zoonotic diseases can be contracted either directly or indirectly. Indirect: contaminated water sources, soil; Directly: bitten, scratched, contact with bodily fluids.
- Hunters should be aware of the potential dangers that they may face while in the field.
- Hunters should avoid consuming open bodies of waters.



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