

Review of Veterinary Microbiology and Public Health

Amaal M. Khudaier, Juman Khaleel Al-Sabbagh, Nawras M. Al-Khafaji

College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Kerbala, Karbala, Iraq

Corresponding author: yasser.alasadi@uokerbala.edu.iq

Received: 4/5/2025

Accepted: 21/8/2025

Published: 15/9/2025

Abstract—Veterinary microbiology and public health are interconnected subdivisions that deal with the condition of microorganisms in animal health, zoonotic diseases, food safety and environmental health. This evaluation emphasizes the significance of microorganisms such as, viruses, fungi and parasites in relation to shaping animals and public health structures. It highlights the impact of food-borne infections like *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* spp. and zoonotic diseases like rabies, which necessitate good enough public situations, including conditions. The growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), driven by inappropriate antimicrobial use in livestock, is discussed alongside the importance of the "One Health" approach in addressing these challenges. Advances in veterinary microbiology, including diagnostic tools, vaccines, and alternative therapies, are explored for their role in safeguarding food safety and mitigating environmental contamination. This review underscores the need for multidisciplinary collaboration to tackle global challenges at the intersection of animal, human, and environmental health.

Keywords — public health, Veterinary microbiology, food-borne infections, animal fitness.

INTRODUCTION

Veterinary Microbiology is a specialized branch of microbiology that plays a crucial role in safeguarding the health and well-being of animals. This field encompasses the study of various microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, and their interactions with animal hosts. By understanding the intricacies of these microorganisms, veterinarians can diagnose, treat, and prevent infectious diseases in a diverse range of animal species. One of the primary applications of veterinary microbiology is in the diagnosis of infectious diseases in animals. Veterinary microbiologists also play a critical role in monitoring and controlling zoonotic diseases—diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans. By studying the

microbial ecology of animals, scientists can identify potential reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens (1). understanding, diagnosing, and controlling This field is essential for comprehending, diagnosing, and dealing with infectious illnesses in animals, lots of which pose tremendous public fitness dangers (2). Ministry of Agriculture, which plays a role within the implementation of inspection, checking out, and certification of animal merchandise with a purpose to be circulated available on the market. Ministry of Agriculture, which plays a role in the implementation of inspection, testing, and certification of animal products that will be circulated on the market. Supervision carried out by BPMSPH to ensure that animal products that will be circulated on the market have met hygienic and sanitary requirements along the production chain (3).

Role of Veterinary Microbiology in Animal Health

Veterinary Microbiology stands as a cornerstone in the holistic approach to animal health and welfare. This specialized branch of microbiology delves into the intricate world of microorganisms and their interactions with animal hosts. This abstract provides a concise overview of the multifaceted contributions of veterinary microbiology, spanning disease diagnosis, zoonotic disease surveillance, vaccine development, antimicrobial resistance monitoring, food safety, and the proactive management of emerging infectious diseases (1). The development of vaccinations, is one of the most effective strategies to fight antimicrobial resistance. Vaccines, unlike drugs, are less likely to produce resistance since they are precise to their target illnesses (4).

- **New infections:** H5N1 flu and *Brucella* spp. are rising and re-growing illnesses which have highlighted the price of veterinary microbiology in tracking and handling outbreaks (5). Zoonotic epidemics are more common in developing nations, where the problem is made worse by a lack of knowledge and preventative measures (6).

- **Microbiota and animal health:** Advances in metagenomics have brought attention to the part gut microbiota plays in animal health and illness, impacting vitamins, immunity, and infection resistance (7).

Zoonotic Diseases and Public Health

The majority of people have a few kind of interaction with animals. Any contamination or contamination that certainly spreads from vertebrate animals to human beings or from human beings to vertebrate animals is referred to as a zoonotic disease. Over 60% of human infections have zoonotic origins (5). A higher information of the impact of human-related factors on zoonotic disease transmission and incidence can assist drive the preventative measures and containment regulations important to improve public fitness (8).

The field for veterinary microbiology is important to reduce these risks.

1. Rabies: Rabies is still an important zoonotic threat, killing more than 59,000 people each year(9). Puppies that received veterinary vaccinations were important to reduce the number of human cases (10). The most important evidence of the effect of treatment is to detect the rabies virus antigen in the brain of animals collected through a better laboratory -based screen indicating an immune response to the vaccine(11).

2. Food borne diseases: Poultry inv. Brucellosis: Brucellosis is one of the most common bacterial zoonotic diseases causing over 500,000 human cases throughout the world every year (15). Domestic animals are a natural reservoir of *Brucella* spp., and animal-to-human transmission occurs through the consumption of raw milk and milk products; however, it is recognized as an occupational disease of veterinarians, animal farmers, and abattoir workers as they handle infected animals and aborted fetuses or placenta (16). The outbreaks of *Salmonella*, exposing multidrug-resistant strains such as *S. enteritis* into eggs and processed meat as prominent contributors in human infections (12).

3. Influenza: Zoonotic infections of people with *Influenza A* Viruses (IAVs) from animal reservoirs can bring about extreme disease in people and, in uncommon cases, lead to pandemic outbreaks (13). The increasing occurrence of infections resulting from those viruses worldwide has necessitated focused attention to improve both diagnostic in addition to treatment modalities (14).

4. Brucellosis: Brucellosis is one of the most common bacterial zoonotic diseases causing over 500,000 human cases throughout the world every year (15). Domestic animals are a natural reservoir of *Brucella* spp., and animal-to-human transmission occurs through the consumption of raw milk and milk products; however, it is recognized as an occupational disease of veterinarians, animal farmers, and abattoir workers as they handle infected animals and aborted fetuses or placenta (16).

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR): a global anxiety

Antibiotics have become more widespread due to rough use of antibiotics in veterinary practice, which risks the health of both humans and animals. The interaction between AMR is shown by the separation of multi-resistant organisms from both humans and animals, such as methicillin resistance *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and expanded Spectrum Beta-Lactamase (ESBL) producing *E. coli* (17).

• **AMR driver:** One of the main causes of AMR is incorrect use of antibiotics in livestock, as well as the inclusion of development ads and prophylaxis (18).

• **One Health Approach:** To combat AMR, human, veterinary, and environmental sectors must work together in concert. This includes antimicrobial stewardship initiatives and complementary medicines like phage therapy and probiotics (19).

Microbiology in Veterinary Medicine and Food Safety

Veterinary microbiology contributes significantly to food bio insurance, by monitoring the food chain infections and creating control methods. *Listeria monocytogens* and *E. coli* O157: H7 Meat, milk and egg pollution is a serious public health problem (20).

• **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point(HACCP):** Microbial pollution has reduced in food production when the HACCP method was implemented in food processing (21).

• **Innovative solutions:** Probiotics, antimicrobial peptides, and bacteriophages are being used to control food-borne infections as a surefire way to provide chemical protection(22).

Veterinary Microbiology in Environmental Health

Public health may be impacted by microbial contamination of agricultural activities and animal manure, *Leptospira* spp. and *Cryptosporidium parvum* are among the pathogens, Animals remain in the garbage and can pollute the water supply, which is important for human health(23). These diseases may variety from slight infections to lifestyles-threatening situations, and might spread rapidly, mainly in crowded environments which include farms, shelters, or veterinary clinics (24).

CONCLUSION

Veterinary microbiology leads to animal health, public health and food safety. The increasing demand for zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance and environmental infections are looking for a multicolored "One health" technique in relationships. Development in microbial diagnostics, vaccines and opportunities provides promising solutions for demanding conditions worldwide. Constant cooperation between animals and public fitness experts is important to deal with complex interaction between animals, people and the environment.

REFERENCES

- 1) Adrian LH (2023) Exploring the Vital Role of Veterinary Microbiology in Animal Health. J Vet Med Health 7: 199.
- 2) Stefanetti V, Hyatt D, Passamonti F. Editorial: Diagnostic Procedures in Veterinary Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Front Vet Sci. 2022 Feb 25;9:868741. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2022.868741. PMID: 35280135; PMCID: PMC8913587.

- 3) Tasyah, A., Septiya, S., Putri, S. J., Fernanda, R. A., & Azani, P. C. (2021). Best practice kebijakan e-
- 4) Alghamdi S. The role of vaccines in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) bacteria. *Saudi J Biol Sci.* 2021 Dec;28(12):7505-7510. doi: 10.1016/j.sjbs.2021.08.054. Epub 2021 Aug 24. PMID: 34867055; PMCID: PMC8626314.
- 5) Rahman MT, Sobur MA, Islam MS, Ievy S, Hossain MJ, El Zowlaty ME, Rahman AT, Ashour HM. Zoonotic Diseases: Etiology, Impact, and Control. *Microorganisms.* 2020 Sep 12;8(9):1405. doi: 10.3390/microorganisms8091405. PMID: 32932606; PMCID: PMC7563794.
- 6) Puspakhi Borah, Pankaj Das, Ramashankar Bordoloi, Resmin Begum, Girin Hazarika, Deep Prakash Saikia, Bhuban Chandra Chutia, Chittaranjan Baruah, Rupam Dutta,(2025). Prevalence of zoonotic diseases in the Northeastern region, one health perspective, *Animals and Zoonoses*,2025,ISSN 2950-2489, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.azn.2025.01.001>.
- 7) O'Hara, A. M., & Shanahan, F. (2006). The gut flora as a forgotten organ. *EMBO Reports*, 7(7), 688–693.
- 8) Esposito MM, Turku S, Lehrfield L, Shoman A. The Impact of Human Activities on Zoonotic Infection Transmissions. *Animals (Basel).* 2023 May 15;13(10):1646. doi: 10.3390/ani13101646. PMID: 37238075; PMCID: PMC10215220.
- 9) World Health Organization WHO. (2023). Rabies Fact Sheet. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- 10) World Health Organization (WHO). (2021). Rabies factsheet.
- 11) Charles E. Rupprecht, Tore Buchanan, Florence Cliquet, Roni King, Thomas Müller, Boris Yakobson, Dong-Kun Yang .(2024). A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON ORAL VACCINATION OF WILDLIFE AGAINST RABIES, *J. of Wildlife Diseases*, 60(2):241-284 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.7589/JWD-D-23-00078>.
- 12) Jones, R.K., et al. (2024). "Global burden of Salmonella infections from poultry and eggs: A meta-analysis of outbreaks and antimicrobial resistance trends." *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, 413, 110592.
- 13) Kessler S, Harder TC, Schwemmler M, Cimini K. Influenza A Viruses and Zoonotic Events-Are We Creating Our Own Reservoirs? *Viruses.* 2021 Nov 9;13(11):2250. doi: 10.3390/v13112250. PMID: 34835056; PMCID: PMC8624301.
- 14) Goulet, L.W., Mehta, K., Wong, J. et al. Zoonotic Influenza and Human Health—Part 1: Virology and Epidemiology of Zoonotic Influenzas. *Curr Infect Dis Rep* 20, 37 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11908-018-0642-9>.
- 15) Hull N.C., Schumaker B.A. Comparisons of brucellosis between human and veterinary medicine. *Infect. Ecol. Epidemiol.* 2018;8:1500846. doi: 10.1080/20008686.2018.1500846. [DOI] [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
- 16) M.N.B. Nayan, T. Ferdousi, F.I. Siddique, M. S. Rahman.(2025). Seroprevalence and Risk Factors of Human Brucellosis Among High-Risk individuals of Mymensingh Division in Bangladesh. January 2025.*Journal of Veterinary Medical and One Health Research* 6(1-2):123-135.DOI:10.36111/jvmohr.2024.6(1-2).0040.
- 17) Davies, J., & Davies, D. (2010). Origins and evolution of antibiotic resistance. *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*, 74(3), 417–433.
- 18) Van Boeckel, T. P., et al. (2015). Global trends in antimicrobial use in food animals. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(18), 5649–5654.
- 19) Robinson, T. P., et al. (2016). Antibiotic resistance is the quintessential One Health issue. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 110(7), 377–380.
- 20) Jay, S. J., et al. (2003). *Modern food microbiology*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- 21) Mortimore, S., & Wallace, C. (2013). *HACCP: A practical approach*. Springer Science & Business Media.
- 22) Abedon, S. T. (2017). Phage therapy: Past, present and future. *Bacteriophage*, 1(1), 5–9.
- 23) Smith, T.P., et al. (2024). "Zoonotic *Cryptosporidium parvum* in livestock waste: Environmental persistence and groundwater contamination risks." *Science of the Total Environment*, 927, 172201.
- 24) Clark J (2024) *Veterinary Microbiology: Understanding the Role of Microorganisms in Animal Health*. *J Veterinary Med.* 8:37.