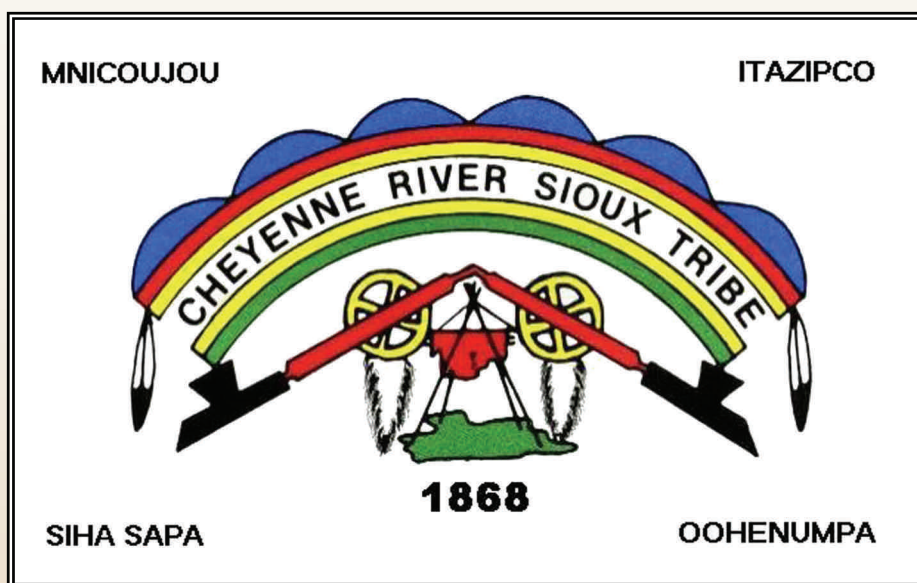


A Quick Guide To Plague

What is Plague?

Plague is a bacterial disease of rodents that can be spread to humans and other animals by fleas.



TYPES OF PLAGUE

Bubonic-Infection of lymph glands.

Septicemic-Infection of blood.

Pneumonic-Infection of lungs.



Swollen lymph glands caused by plague bacteria (bubonic plague).

TRANSMISSION

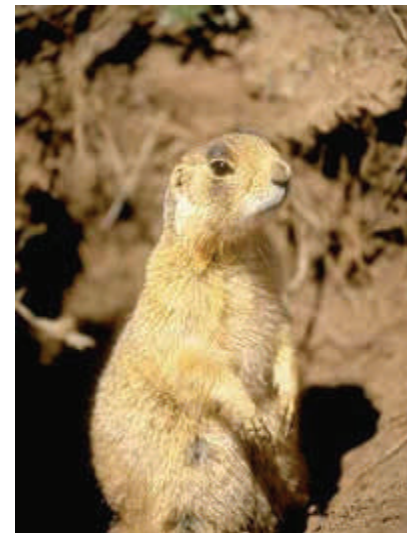
- **Flea-borne**—From infected rodents to humans.
- **Direct contact**-Handling sick or dead animals, tissues or fluids.
- **Respiratory droplets**-From Humans or animals with pneumonic plague.

INCUBATION PERIOD

Two to six days after exposure.

SYLVATIC PLAGUE RESERVOIRS

- **Wild Rodents**-rock and ground squirrels, prairie dogs, other burrowing rodents.



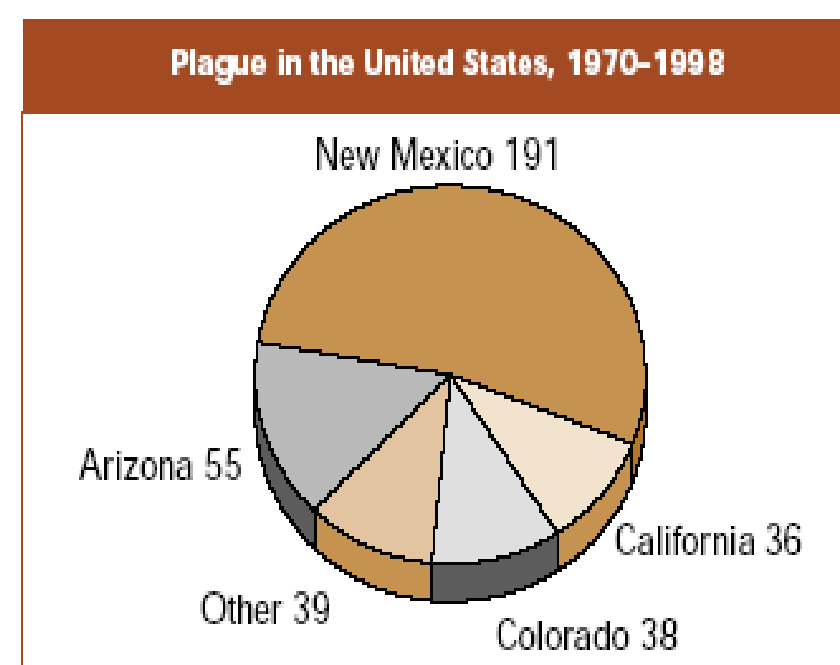
- **Domesticates**-dogs, cats, etc. Watch for pet cats that develop abscesses, are lethargic or anorexic which may indicate infection. Contact a veterinarian.



Dogs and Cats with Plague can pass the disease to their owners.

RISK GROUPS

- People in rural areas.
- Biologists, trappers and hunters.
- Campers, hikers and travelers.
- Health care professionals in close contact with pneumonic plague patients.
- Majority of cases occur in NM,AZ, CO



Fleas are carriers of plague

TREATMENT

- If diagnosed in time, plague is treatable with antibiotics.
- Antibiotics is recommended for a person who is:
 1. Infected during local outbreak.
 2. In a household with a bubonic plague patient.
 3. In close contact with a person or animal with suspected pneumonic plague.

The mortality rate is 50-90% if left untreated, 15% when diagnosed and treated.

The incidence of plague in the United States is very low. One to forty cases are reported annually by western states in 1971-1995. The average is 13 cases.

PREVENTION

FLEA CONTROL

1. Treat infested pets using flea collars or flea powder.
2. Vacuuming and cleaning infested premises. Immediately dispose of vacuum cleaner contents / bags
3. Spraying or dusting infested premises with flea powder.
4. Keep pets inside if possible.
5. Outside pets should be on a leash or in fenced yards.

RODENT CONTROL

1. Pre-treat known burrows with insecticide to kill fleas.
2. Follow directions and use extreme caution if using a rodenticide.
3. Dispose of rodents using rubber gloves.
4. Store refuse in rodent proof containers.
5. Store all food items 12-18 inches off the ground in rodent proof containers.
6. Remove all debris in and within 100 feet around the home.
7. Keep animal feeding areas clean.
8. Keep weeds cut..

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