INFECTION AND ILLNESS

Please be aware of the following diseases, which can be transmitted from animals to humans.

**Tetanus** – spores enter the body via cuts and burns when in contact with soil and manure, and through dog bites. Prevention – advise to be immunised. Must have booster every 10 years. Always check that you have any open wounds and cuts covered and wash hands thoroughly after activities.


**Toxocara Canis** – transmitted to humans (usually children) through contaminated dog/fox excrement. Can cause blindness. Prevention – always check that you have any open wounds and cuts covered and are wearing appropriate clothing or gloves, especially if handling litter and rubbish. Wash hands thoroughly after activities.

http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Toxocariasis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

**Lyme Disease** – transmitted to humans via deer ticks. Other tick borne diseases (e.g. Q Fever) are associated with ticks of sheep. Ticks are found on vegetation in grassland, marshland and woodland, and are most active between April and October. Prevention – wear long trousers tucked into socks and brush off clothes before entering a building. Check for ticks when you are getting undressed.

http://www.tickbitepreventionweek.org/index.html

**Leptospirosis (Weils Disease)** – transmitted to humans by contact with urine from infected rats and cows. Humans get the disease through swallowing contaminated water, contaminated water entering an open wound or into the eyes, or by being bitten by an infected rat. Prevention – avoid working in slow flowing or stagnant water where rats are associated with human rubbish or sewage. Cover all cuts and open wounds, avoid getting water in eyes, nose or mouth. Wash hands thoroughly after activities.

http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/Pages/Introduction.aspx

As well as possible infections, please be aware of poisonous plants and fungi such as wild parsnip, giant hogweed and other umbellifers; blue-green algal blooms; blackthorn and other thorns; nettles and poison ivy and deadly nightshade.