KENTUCKY CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Strategic National Stockpile

ACT SHEET - Plague and Pets PUBLIC INFORMATION

YOUR PET CAN GET PLAGUE.

- Any animal that gets fleas can become infected with plague bacteria.
- The pets most likely to get plague are cats, dogs, rabbits, and small rodents—including mice and rats.
- You could be at risk for bubonic plague if you are bitten by the same fleas that bite your animal.

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PET HAS PLAGUE:

AVOID CLOSE OR CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE ANIMAL AND CALL YOUR VETERINARIAN

YOU CAN GET PLAGUE FROM YOUR PET.

• You can get plague from your pet. If your pet has been infected by plague, you can also become infected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services Frankfort, KY

http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/preparedness

KY Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222

http://www.krpc.com/

Lake Cumberland District Health Dept. (606) 678 – 4761

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA **Toll free: 1-800-311-3435**

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/ plague/index.htm

- The risk of getting pneumonic plague is especially important if you have close contact with an infected cat.
- Animals infected by plague can transmit the disease through:
 - fleas
 - coughing and sneezing
 - saliva

PLAGUE CAN BE DIAGNOSED AND TREATED IN ANIMALS.

- Signs that an animal has plague include:
 - fever
 - sneezing
 - coughing
 - the appearance of lumps, called "buboes" around the head and neck
- A blood test can be taken to find out if an animal has plague.
- Animals may be treated for plague with antibiotics and draining their lymph nodes.