



Animal/Plant Health

Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigations

Unusual Outbreaks of Zoonotic, Emerging, and Foreign Animal or Plant Diseases



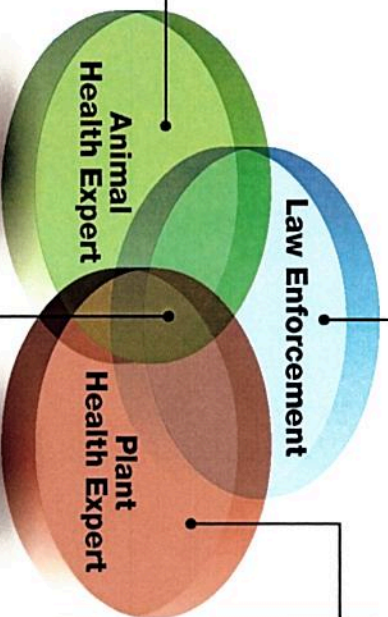
The Problem: An intentional release of an animal or plant pathogen/toxin may be difficult to discern from a natural or accidental outbreak.

The Solution: Joint criminal & epidemiological investigations allow animal/plant experts & law enforcement to utilize each other's strengths & resources.

- Investigate unusual disease outbreaks
- Identify disease agent or source
- Implement outbreak control and eradication measures

- Perform criminal investigations
- Determine criminal or terrorism nexus
- Identify, apprehend, and prosecute those responsible
- Prevent further attacks

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- Detect and report suspicious or unusual outbreaks
- Determine if intentional, natural or accidental
- Protect health & economic stability
- Share information/intelligence

Joint animal disease and law enforcement investigations allow for a more rapid and efficient recognition, detection, and response to unusual zoonotic, emerging, and transboundary disease outbreaks.

Preparedness

- Build relationships between law enforcement & animal/plant health experts
- Joint protocols for triggers, notifications, responses, and investigations
- Joint training and exercises

Detection & Notifications

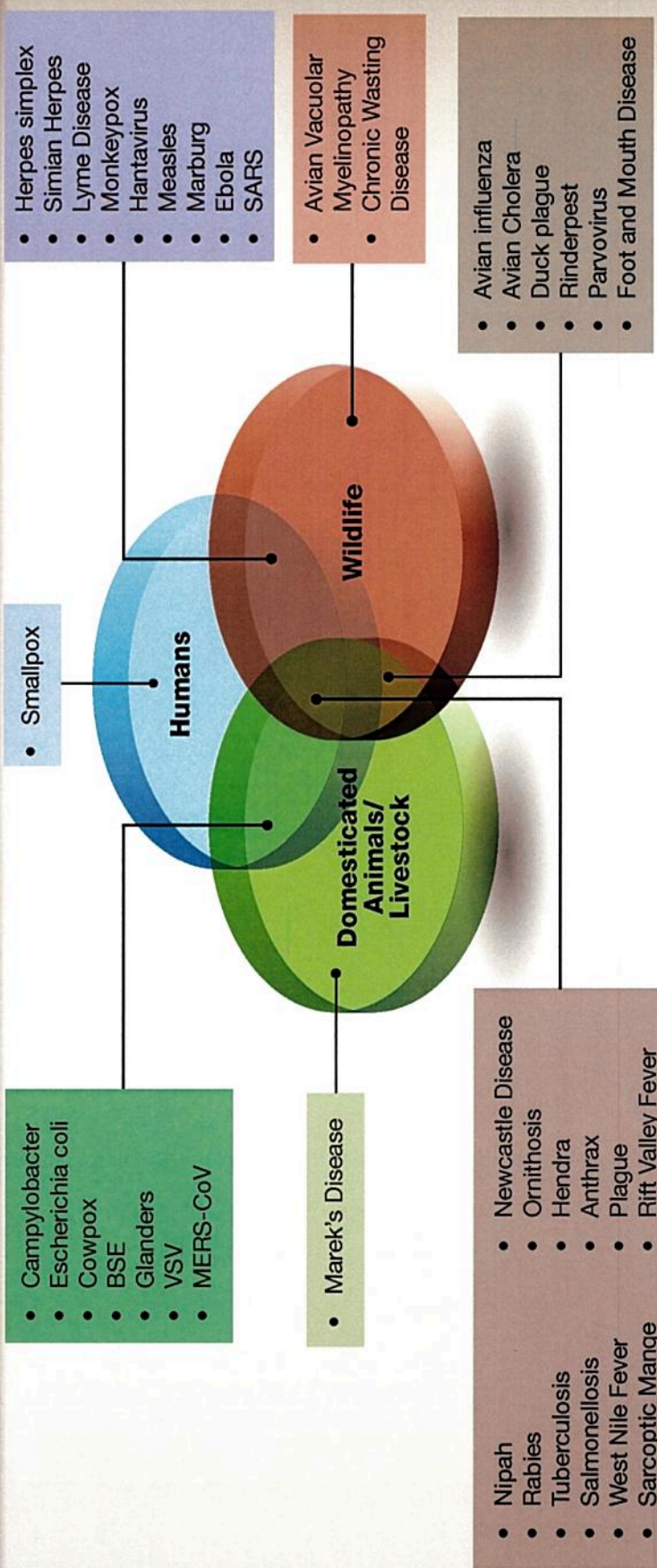
- Rapid identification and notification of law enforcement of unusual disease outbreaks
- Proactively share relevant law enforcement and animal/plant health information

Response & Investigation

- Sampling & evidence collection
- Joint investigations utilizing information from both law enforcement and animal/plant health experts
- Joint interviews maximize the opportunity to collect information



Animal and Plant Health Joint Criminal-Epidemiological Investigations



Spillover of infectious disease between humans, wildlife, and domestic animals. (Modified from USGS National Wildlife Health Center's Disease Emergence and Resurgence: The Wildlife-Human Connection).

- Many new, emerging diseases affect humans, livestock, and wildlife and potentially could be weaponized for criminal or terrorist uses.
- Agricultural Terrorism is a variation of Bioterrorism that targets the health and productivity of livestock, crops, and wildlife.
- Early notification of highly suspicious disease investigations are key for Law Enforcement to recognize and disrupt intentional, criminal, or terrorist attacks.
- Develop Tools to Recognize Threats, Unusual, or Suspicious Disease Patterns:
 - Active and Syndromic Surveillance
 - Reportable Disease Lists
 - Disease Awareness Training
- Develop Notification Triggers/Thresholds for reporting unusual or suspicious disease to Law Enforcement.
- Develop Information Sharing Tools between Animal/Plant Health Experts and Law Enforcement
 - Agroterrorism Working Groups
 - Terrorism/Intelligence Fusion Centers