

Facts about Bushmeat and Ebola

Bushmeat

- The term “bushmeat” refers to meat that comes from wild animals captured in developing regions of the world such as Africa.
- Bushmeat comes from a variety of wild animals, including bats, nonhuman primates (e.g., monkeys), cane rats (grasscutters), and duiker (antelope).
- It is often smoked, dried, or salted and considered a treat to some, a main food source to others.

Bringing Bushmeat into the United States

- It is illegal to bring bushmeat into the United States.
- Bushmeat, in any amount, found at US ports of entry will be destroyed along with any personal items that may have come in contact with the bushmeat.
- There is a \$250,000 fine for bringing bushmeat into the US.



Ebola

- [Ebola](#) is a rare and deadly disease that is spread through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or died from Ebola.
- Generally, Ebola is not spread by food; however, in Africa human infections have been associated with hunting, butchering, and processing meat from infected animals.
- To date, there have been no reports of human sickness in the United States from preparing or consuming bushmeat illegally brought into the United States.

Bushmeat Health Concerns

- Bushmeat could be infected with germs that can cause sickness in people, including the Ebola virus.
- Ebola is not generally spread through food, but the hunting, butchering, and processing of bushmeat brings people into contact with blood and other fluids of a potentially infected animal.
- Ebola infections in people have been associated with handling and eating infected animals.

Take Action

- Do not bring bushmeat into the United States.
- Do not eat or handle bushmeat.
- Tell friends and family to avoid African bushmeat because it is illegal to bring it into the United States and it can make people sick.
- If you must handle bushmeat, wear disposable gloves. When you remove your gloves, wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- If you choose to eat bushmeat, make sure it is cooked thoroughly.

More Information

- To learn more about bushmeat visit CDC’s [Animal Importation](#) web page.
- You can learn more about Ebola outbreak in West Africa on CDC’s [Ebola](#) web page.