

Bushmeat

What is bushmeat?

- ◆ The term “bushmeat” refers to raw or minimally processed meat that comes from wild animals in certain regions of the world including Africa and may pose communicable disease risk.
- ◆ Bushmeat comes from a variety of wild animals, including bats, nonhuman primates (monkeys), cane rats (grasscutters), and duiker (antelope).
- ◆ Bushmeat is often smoked, dried, or salted (these procedures are not sufficient to render the meat noninfectious).

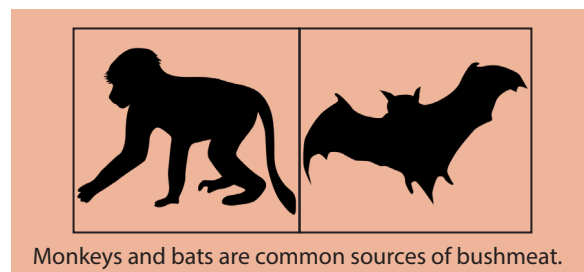


Bushmeat is illegal

- ◆ 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 United States.

Bushmeat and 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. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html
- ◆ 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



Health concerns

- ◆ Bushmeat could be infected with germs that can cause sickness in people, including the Ebola virus.
- ◆ 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 with soap and water.
- ◆ If you choose to eat bushmeat, make sure it is cooked thoroughly.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

To learn more about bushmeat, visit:
www.cdc.gov/importation/index.html

You can learn more about the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, visit:
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html