Due to climate change, India could become a hotspot for zoonotic disease transmission & future outbreaks: study

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This research, published in Nature, forms one of the first attempts at modelling how global warming might affect the intensity and frequency of virus swapping between species, and what this might mean for disease outbreaks in the human world. Assuming the planet will warm by 2°C above pre-industrial levels this century, the model predicts that we will see the number of first-time meetings among species double by 2070, effectively creating virus transmission hotspots all over the world. This will be more pronounced in species-rich ecosystems at high elevations and densely populated regions -which of course, includes India. India and Indonesia as well as Africa's Sahel region could become hotspots where different mammal species interact for the first time, and possibly pass diseases onto each other. A recent report from the State of the World's Forests 2022 also predicts India as a potential hotspot for zoonotic viral diseases. About 70% of all emerging diseases such as rabies, swine flu, nipah, brucellosis, leptospirosis, porcine cysticercosis and zika that affect humans are zoonotic in nature.

Cat DNA identifies disease-causing variants in new breed

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Thirteen genetic variants associated with disease in cats are present in more pedigreed breeds than previously thought, according to the largest ever DNA-based study of domestic cats, led by the University of Helsinki in Finland. However, these variants are declining in frequency in breeds that are regularly screened for the genetic markers. The results are publishing June 16th in the open-access journal PLOS Genetics. The researchers genotyped over 11,000 domestic cats, including 90 pedigreed breeds and breed types, and 617 non-pedigreed cats, for 87 genetic variants associated with disease, blood type or physical appearance. They found that there was more genetic diversity in the non-pedigreed cat population than in the pedigreed cat population, and three disease-associated variants were found solely in non-pedigreed cats.They also identified 13 disease-associated variants in 47 breeds for which the disease had not previously been documented. However, the results suggest that the frequency of some markers has declined since they were first identified. For example, PKD1, a variant associated with Polycystic Kidney Disease and previously reported to affect 40% of Persian cats.

VIVALDIS CORNER

On this World Zoonoses Day, observed on July 6th, Vivaldis conducted a nationwide spot-on application drive and pet parent awareness campaign. Zoonosis is an infectious disease that is transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans. Ticks & fleas, other ecto & endo parasites can transmit these zoonotic diseases. Vi-fi spot-on and Bark out Loud natural tick & flea spot-on were applied on pets to prevent tick & flea infestation. Vets and pet parents appreciated the team for the efforts in spreading awareness and importance of prevention of zoonoses. These are a few glimpses from the activity.

WORLD ZOONOSES DAY

VIVALDIS Animal Health

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