

日常生活でペットからうつる人と動物の共通感染症

Zoonosis: Diseases that Transfer Between Pets and Humans in Daily Life



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Hello, everybody. Thank you very much for making the effort to attend this meeting in spite of the snowy weather. I came here from Tokyo by Shinkansen, and the train was delayed for a long time due to the snow.

Today, several speakers will be giving talks on the subject of “Zoonoses: Diseases that transfer between pets and humans in daily life.” We have a study group on zoonoses and that group has been helping out with this project. When talking about diseases affecting people and animals, the term “zoonosis” (plural “zoonoses”) has been widely used in English over the years. We thought that this term was difficult for Japanese people to understand, and when the term is written in Japanese, the characters don’t have a very good feel, so we named our study group “Hito to Dobutsu no Kyotsu Kansensho Kenkyukai” (Study Group on Infectious Diseases Common to Humans and Animals).

I am originally a pediatrician so I am actually a doctor who specializes in medicine for people. Indeed, doctors who work in the animal field such as veterinarians can discuss common themes such as the human diseases that also infect animals, although this is something that happens rather rarely in practice. Accordingly, we have held discussions with veterinarians on the keyword of animal diseases that infect humans, and tried to find some points in common between the two.

Up to now, such meetings or discussions between doctors and veterinarians have been held only rarely. Mostly veterinarians only talk about this issue within their own veterinarian circles, while doctors do so in

their own doctor groups, so there are very few points of contact between the two groups. We wanted to discuss the issue by bringing doctors and veterinarians together. That is how this study group began.

For the present project, we selected the theme of zoonoses. I am sure those of you who are here at this meeting have a rough grasp of this subject already, as pets are naturally subject to a number of diseases. The general contents of our study meeting have been outlined in a pamphlet, entitled “Handbook of Infectious Diseases of Animal Origin 2012”. In here, the sentence “rules should be followed even among intimate friends” appears. What this means is that because animals can’t understand people, the onus is on people to understand animals well and care about them. Also, it is better to prevent diseases spreading from animals to humans in the first place than be forced to treat them after they have already spread to humans. That is the main drift of the study meeting.

On page 26, in the first of the Workshop I abstracts, I have written that “animals can’t think about how they relate to us, but we can think about how to relate to them.” This is my key concept.

I have asked four researchers to give talks today. I myself am Nobuhiko Okabe from the Infectious Diseases Surveillance Center of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, and I will be serving as moderator of this workshop. Within Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare - the administrative agency in charge of human health matters - there is a section that deals with infectious diseases called the ‘Tuberculosis

and Infectious Disease Control Division'. Groups of veterinary technical officers and specialists are at work in the division. These groups are working on diseases that spread from people to animals, animal diseases, and they issue official warnings about these diseases, etc. Several leading experts in various fields from these groups are also with us today.

The first talk is entitled "Cat-Scratch Disease". The lecturer is Professor Soichi Maruyama of the College of Bioresource Sciences at Nihon University. The second talk is entitled "Bacterial infection from Dogs and Cats – Brucellosis and *Capnocytophaga canimorsus* infection". These names may be rather unfamiliar to you but they are infectious diseases which we all need to be vigilant about. The lecturer is Professor Koichi Imaoka, Chief of the Laboratory of Reservoir Control of Zoonoses at the Department of Veterinary Science of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. The third talk, on the subject of "What is Psittacosis? – Worry-free living with Companion Birds", will be given by Professor Hideto Fukushi of Gifu University. And lastly, under the title of "Countermeasures in Japan for Preventing Zoonoses", Dr. Takeshi Morita of the Tuberculosis and Infectious Disease Division at the Health Service Bureau of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will speak about how administrative cautions are issued. It seems that we have ample time, so if you have any questions, not limited to the subjects of the talks but also on general issues related to animal-derived infectious diseases, please feel free to ask, and we will attempt to answer them to the best of our knowledge, although if the question falls outside our areas of specialty, we may not always be able to provide a clear answer. So that sums up how this section has been constructed. Please join in as much as you can.

Now, I would like to introduce the first speaker, Professor Soichi Maruyama. Looking at his talk title, the keyword is "cat" and the title is "Cat-Scratch Disease".

Professor Maruyama, please begin.