

Researchers stress the need for research on Ebola virus disease in great apes

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A new review examines the current knowledge about EVD in great apes and documents the link between outbreaks in apes and in humans, mainly via bushmeat consumption. Credit: Mammal Review

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a threat to human health, but it also threatens the survival of African great apes. A new review examines the

current knowledge about EVD in great apes and documents the link between outbreaks in apes and in humans, mainly via bushmeat consumption.

The review's authors note that vaccination of wild apes would simultaneously reduce the risk of transmission into the human population and the impact of EVD on the endangered great apes.

"Even though theoretically this may sound like a great plan, the elusive nature of great apes, living in dense tropical rainforests, raises serious questions about its feasibility " said Dr. Fabian Leendertz, senior author of the *Mammal Review* article.

Additional research, systematic wildlife surveillance, and public education about the risk of bushmeat consumption are needed.

More information: Siv Aina J. Leendertz et al, Ebola in great apes - current knowledge, possibilities for vaccination, and implications for conservation and human health, *Mammal Review* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/mam.12082](https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12082)

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