

What's the best way to prevent tuberculosis transmission from wildlife to cattle?

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An analysis of relevant published studies indicates that cattle face a hypothetically high risk of getting tuberculosis from wildlife—such as deer, foxes, and wild boar—through indirect interactions, with a much

lower risk from direct interactions.

In the analysis, which is published in *Mammal Review*, data from 31 studies using various methods to assess [wildlife](#)-cattle interactions around the world revealed that direct interaction rates were low (an average of 0.03 interactions per month per species pair).

In contrast, indirect interaction rates were 154 times higher (an average of 4.63 interactions per month per species pair). Indirect interaction rates increased with wild mammals' density, which could result in a higher tuberculosis transmission risk for cattle.

The findings indicate that to prevent [tuberculosis](#) in cattle, attention should be given to their indirect interactions with wildlife in shared environments. The authors offer several recommendations for future studies.

"We believe that our work will contribute to guide other animal interaction-based studies as well as to support control and biosecurity measures, also applicable to other [infectious diseases](#) at shared interfaces," said co-corresponding Eduardo M. Ferreira, a Ph.D. student at the University of Évora, in Portugal.

More information: Disentangling wildlife-cattle interactions in multi-host tuberculosis scenarios: systematic review and meta-analysis, *Mammal Review* (2023). [DOI: 10.1111/mam.12324](https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12324).
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