



CASE DEFINITION FOR INFECTION WITH FRANCISELLA TULARENSIS (TULAREMIA)

Endorsed by BSC and SCAD February 2024

For the purposes of notification to WOA, tularemia is defined as an infection of domestic and wild animals under the Order Lagomorpha and Rodentia (collectively, animal hosts) with *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *tularensis* (Type A) and *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *holarctica* (Type B) (hereafter '*Francisella tularensis*' is used to collectively refer to both the subspecies).

The following defines occurrence of infection with *Francisella tularensis*:

1. *Francisella tularensis* has been isolated and identified as such in a sample from an animal host.
2. Nucleic acid or antigen specific to *F. tularensis* has been detected in samples from an animal host AND EITHER
 - a. the animal host is showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with infection with *Francisella tularensis*;OR
 - b. the animal host is epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed human or animal case of infection with *Francisella tularensis*OR
 - c. antibodies to *Francisella tularensis* have been detected in samples from an animal host
3. Antibodies to *Francisella tularensis*, that are not a consequence of vaccination, have been detected in samples from an animal host

AND EITHER

- a. seroconversion has been demonstrated;
- OR
- b. the animal host is showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with infection with *Francisella tularensis*
- OR
- c. the animal host is epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed human or animal case of infection with *Francisella tularensis*
- OR
- d. there is cause to suspect that the animal host has previously been associated or had contact with *Francisella tularensis*.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the WOA [Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines](#)