



Ranavirus



What is Ranavirus?

Ranavirus is an emerging viral disease of amphibians, reptiles and fish around the globe. In the U.S. the most recognized strain type is frog virus 3 (FV3).

Where is Ranavirus found?

Ranavirus is found globally. Throughout the U.S. FV3 has been found to infect numerous amphibian species.

How is it spread?

Ranavirus is spread through direct contact, contaminated water or predation.

What are some clinical signs of disease?

Outbreaks typically have high mortality with large scale die offs observed. The majority of individuals affected are in larval stages or recently metamorphosed, however, any life stage can be affected. Signs of this disease include lethargy, failure to seek shelter when approached, loss of righting reflex, bloating, skin erosion and hemorrhage.

How does this disease affect me?

Humans are not at risk from this disease.

Information for outdoor recreationists:

It is important to disinfect all gear after recreating in or near water based ecosystems. This includes footwear, boats and fishing gear to help limit the spread of disease agents and invasive species. Using amphibians as fishing bait poses a significant risk of spreading this disease. Always report suspicious amphibian deaths to your local biologist.

For additional information on ranavirus or any other wildlife disease, please contact the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory at 307-745-5865.