



Papillomavirus (Fibromas)



What is Papillomavirus?

A virus that can cause wart like growths on the skin (fibromas).

Where is it found?

Papillomaviruses are found globally and can affect many species of wildlife. Most papillomaviruses are species specific.

How is it spread?

Direct contact between individuals. It is also speculated that arthropod vectors may play a role in the spread. Most commonly seen in young animals, once infected an individual will likely fight off the infection and develop immunity from further infections.

What are some clinical signs of disease?

Wart like growths called fibromas can be observed on the skin. Growths can range in size anywhere from a dime to a basketball. Most commonly seen on the head, neck and legs but can grow anywhere on the body. Negative effects of this disease occur when growths hinder foraging, movement or eyesight but typically cause no harm.

How does this disease affect me?

Humans are not at risk of transmission. Remove fibromas while field dressing and cook meat thoroughly. Dogs and cats are also not at risk of transmission.

Information for outdoor recreationists:

Currently this disease does not pose any management concerns.

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