A zoonosis is any disease or infection naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals (e.g. dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats, game, poultry, birds, pigs, horses, donkeys, fish and crocodiles) to humans and vice-versa. Humans are often an incidental host that acquires disease through close contact with an infected animal that may or may not be symptomatic.

More than 200 zoonoses of various types are recognised worldwide. Zoonoses can be caused by a range of disease pathogens (disease-causing agents) such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, helminths, rickettsias and parasites; of 1,415 pathogens known to infect humans, 61% were zoonotic (a disease that normally exists in animals but can infect humans).

Education, training and information are the key to ensure that pet and animal owners as well as people who have contact with animals are safe and healthy.

The book contains 264 pages and more than 500 full-colour photographs.

for more information visit: www.zoonoses.co.za