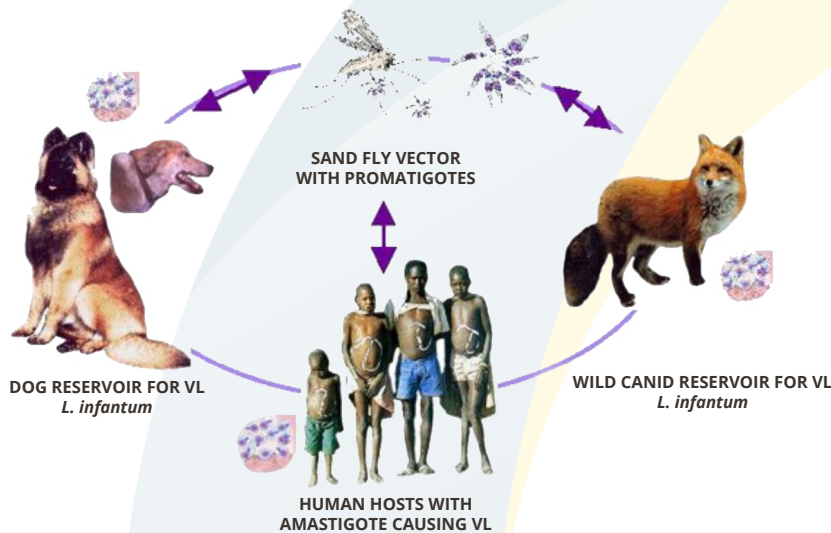


# ONE Health: Animal health

## Leishmaniasis is a zoonosis

Canine leishmaniasis has the potential to infect humans in regions where the disease is prevalent, which is in 98 countries worldwide.

### LIFE CYCLE OF LEISHMANIA CAUSING VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS (VL)



Dogs serve as the **primary reservoir** for *Leishmania infantum*, the parasite responsible for the disease.

The transmission cycle involves an **infected sandfly** biting a dog, thereby picking up the parasite, which it can later transmit to humans or other dogs.

The role of dogs in the transmission cycle of Canine Leishmaniasis underscores the need for effective disease management strategies in dogs to control the spread to humans. This includes regular veterinary check-ups, use of preventive measures like insecticide-treated collars, and prompt treatment if a dog is infected.

In areas where Canine Leishmaniasis is widespread, including parts of Latin America and the Mediterranean basin, it's common for public health officials to establish monitoring programs. These programs keep track of both human and canine cases with the goal of preventing human infections through the early detection and treatment of infected dogs.

## Limited treatment possibilities for dogs

Unfortunately the limited efficacy of current treatments for canine leishmaniasis poses a significant market barrier hindering optimal disease management.

The lack of alternative treatments options exacerbates the issue, with few novel drugs approved for veterinary use.

Overcoming this barrier requires concerted efforts to develop new therapeutics and mitigate drug resistance to improve treatment outcomes.



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 815622.

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