

**Achoo! It's Novel Flu...and SARS-CoV too!**

Written by

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*Animal Poo & You – Staying Healthy Around Your Animals*

[rooster crowing]

>> PIG: *It's quite an excitin' day.* So, if you could all pay attention...

[crunching]

[muffled chatter]

>> PIG: Oh! They're here! Sit, sit.

>> CHICKEN: Bawk!

>> PIG: Sit! [slide whistle] Abigail. Newton. Merigold.

>> PIGLETS (together): Auntie! Hi Auntie! We did our research.

>> PIG: Abigail? Are you ready?

>> ABIGAIL: Mmhmm!

[musical chime]

>> ABIGAIL: You've got to be careful when caring for swine. Oh, "swine" is "pig" in fancy terms. 'cause humans may think that they're healthy and fine, but pigs can give humans their germs.

>> COW: We're talking about germs again?!

[tapping]

>> PIGLETS: Yeah!



A pig goes oink,  
a cow goes moo,  
and whether you're in a barn or a zoo,  
if an animal gets sick,  
a human can get sick too.



>> MERIGOLD: Today we're here to talk about zoonotic diseases.

>> COW: Wait a minute, wait a minute! What does "zoonotic" mean??

>> ABIGAIL: "Zoonotic" means a germ that can jump from animals to humans, or humans to animals.

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[tapping]

>> PIGLETS:



Yeah!  
A pig goes oink,  
a cow goes moo,  
and whether you're in a barn or a zoo,  
if an animal gets sick,  
a human can get sick too.



>> COW: Wait, I can get sick too? Is there something we can do?

>> MERIGOLD:



A duck or a chicken,  
a cow or a goat,  
can also get sneezy  
and have a sore throat.  
But it's pretty easy to keep 'em remote  
just be sure to separate and isolate them.



>> COW: Isolation? Does that mean when they take you away... forever??

[dramatic music]

>> GOAT: Nah, isolation just means you get a few days by yourself to cool off. I've been in isolation before. For bein' too hot.

>> NEWTON: That's right, a high fever is definitely a sign of sickness.

>> GOAT [mumbling]: That's not what I meant.

>> NEWTON:



Just like in humans, it's not hard to tell.  
If you're coughin' or wheezin',  
you might be unwell.  
Or if you have trouble breathin',  
then mademoiselle,

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>> CHICKEN: Bawk?

>> NEWTON:

You may have caught a zoonotic disease.

>> ABIGAIL:

If you find you're not hungry,  
you don't wanna feed.  
If you're tired and you're appetite starts to recede,  
or if your nose is really snotty

>> COW [sneezes]: Achoo!

>> NEWTON: Bless you!

>> Abigail: Indeed!

You may have caught a zoonotic disease.

>> PIGLETS:

A pig goes oink,  
a cow goes moo,  
and whether you're in a barn or a zoo,  
if an animal gets sick,  
a human can get sick too.



>> MERIGOLD: One of the most common zoonotic diseases is the flu, which both animals and humans can get.

[operatic singing]



A respiratory pathogen...

>> CHICKEN: Bawk bawk bawk bawk bawk!

[silence]

>> MERIGOLD: is dangerous for both calf and hen.

>> CHICKEN: Bawk bawk bawk bawk BAWK!

[silence]

>> MERIGOLD: Oh.

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Respiratory simply means breathing.  
'cause when you exhale your air...air...air  
little germs can travel everywhere.

>> NEWTON:

So if you cough or spit or sneeze,  
your germs go flying in the breeze,  
so be careful if you find that you are wheezing.



[panicked breathing]

>> GOAT: Woah, is that why humans sometimes wear masks? 'cause germs spread from their mouths?

>> NEWTON: That's right! In 2020 a scary zoönotic virus called COVID-19 jumped from animals to humans. But, it's not a concern for barn animals like us.

>> COW: Phew!

>> ABIGAIL: Oh! One more thing...



If a flu germ jumps from an animal to  
some nearby humans,  
and they get sick too,  
and this sniffly, sneezy disease is new,  
then we call it a "novel flu".



>> COW: Novel like a book?

>> ABIGAIL: No! Novel like it's new.

>> ALL PIGLETS:



If an animal gets sick,  
a human can get sick too.  
It's called a novel flu.



>> PIG: Pop quiz! If it's from a chicken?

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>> PIGLETS: Avian flu!

>> PIG: If it's from a pig?

>> PIGLETS: Swine flu!

>> GOAT: If it's from a house, it's a chimney flue.

>> MERIGOLD: What did he say?

>> PIG: Don't get them confused!

>> ALL:



If an animal gets sick,  
a human can get sick too.  
It's called zoonotic

>> COW:

Chaotic!

>> GOAT:

Neurotic.

>>ALL:

It's called a  
novel zoonotic flu!



>> NEWTON: Next we should teach you the word "hypochondriac".