Tularemia is a very serious disease. It is caused by a bacteria sometimes found in rats, rabbits, and other wild animals.

**How could I get tularemia?**
You could get tularemia if you:

- Handle dead animals that are infected,
- Are bitten by an infected tick, deerfly or other insect,
- Eat or drink contaminated food or water, or
- Breathe the bacteria that cause tularemia.

**Is tularemia contagious?**
No. You cannot get tularemia from another person.

**Is there a vaccine?**
No.

**What if I think I have tularemia?**
Call your doctor or hospital **right away**.

**How can I prevent getting infected?**
You can:

- Prevent insect bites,
  - Use insect repellent with DEET on your skin, and
  - Spray your clothes with a repellent that has permethrin.
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, especially after handling dead animals,
- Always cook your food thoroughly, and
- Make sure your water is from a safe source.

Call your veterinarian if your livestock or pets (especially rabbits, rats, and other rodents) develop unusual symptoms like fever, weight loss, swollen glands, sores, etc.

**Can terrorists use tularemia as a weapon?**
It is possible, but it would be very hard to release enough tularemia bacteria into the air.

**For more information...**
Call CDC for information in English or Spanish:

- 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)
- 888-232-6348 (TTY)

Or visit:  
www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/tularemia  
www.dhs.ca.gov/epo