

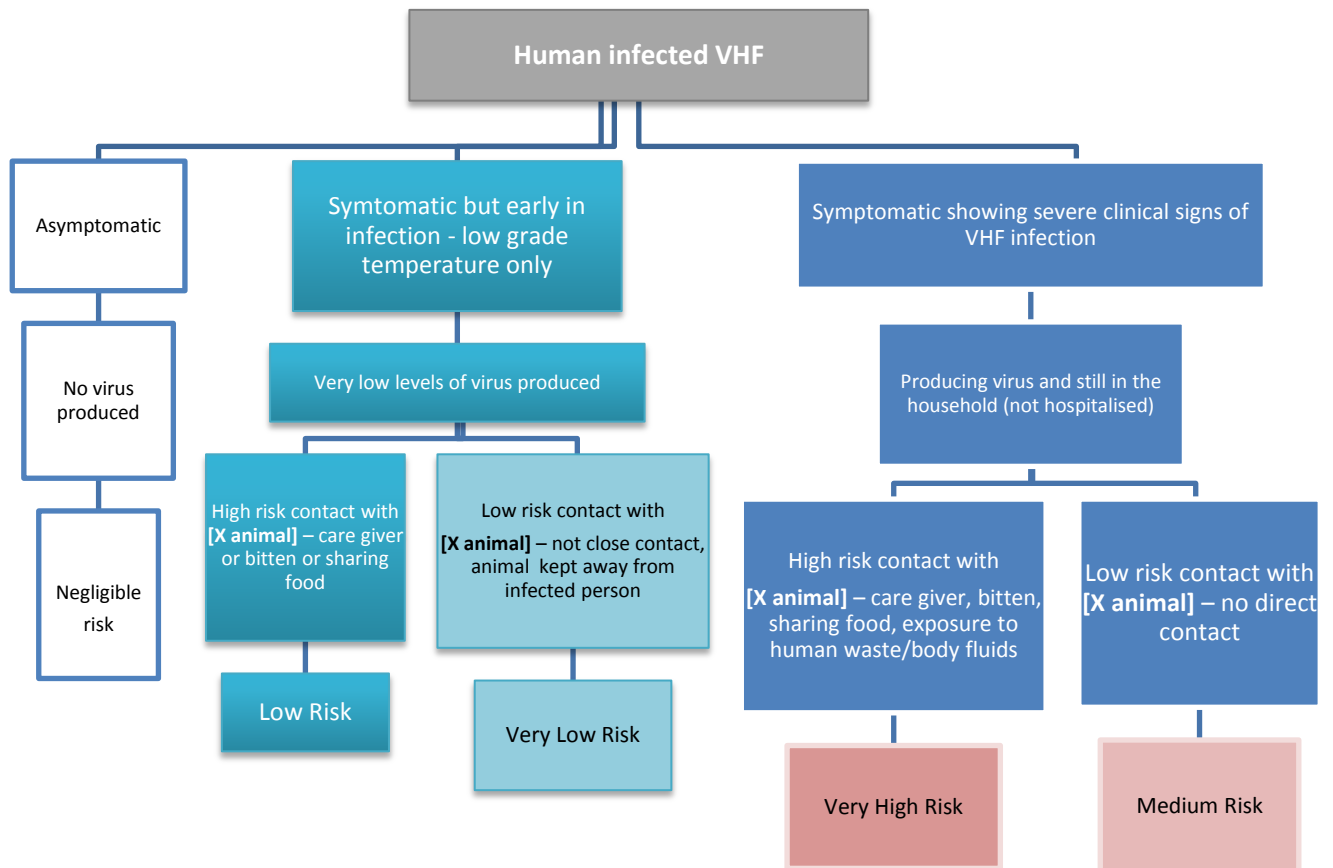
## GUIDANCE ON VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER (VHF) AND PETS

Individuals that have had high-risk exposure to **VHF** should be advised to have their pets kept at an alternative location during their **21 day** quarantine if at all possible (to avoid complications involving the pets).

In the event that this is not possible, and the individual becomes unwell, the pet should be separated from them immediately.

- Given the serious consequences of **VHF** transmission occurring, a precautionary approach must be taken.
- Pets with medium and high probability of becoming infected with **VHF** through contact with a human case should be placed in isolation for at least **21 days**.
- In the event that testing is feasible, the pet should be considered negative only after **two** negative **PCR tests** with the first test conducted on **day 21** and with at least a **three-day** interval between tests, as is recommended for the diagnosis of human **VHF** cases.
- Where possible, the pet should be quarantined in a containment facility. The quarantine will be at the owner's expense. Euthanasia is **NOT** recommended, but may be carried out if the owner requests this. Pets with low and very low risk should be placed in isolation in the home for **21 days**.

The extent of the contact should be assessed jointly between animal and public health authorities (as per figure below\*):



\*Adapted from Roberts et al 2014

### References:

Roberts H., Larkin L., Gale P., Adkin A., Animal and Plant Health Agency, UK, Qualitative Risk Assessment on Ebola and pet dogs, 22 October 2014

Risk related to household pets in contact with Ebola cases in humans. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Food Safety Authority, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy, available at <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Ebola-pets-efsa-2014.pdf>