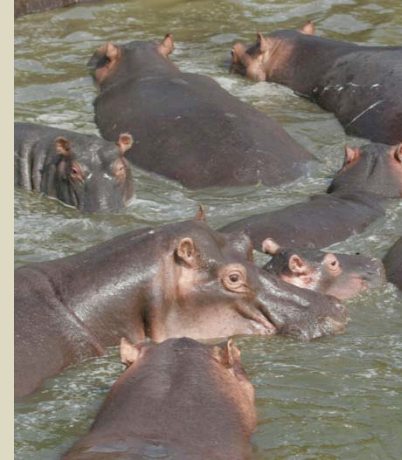
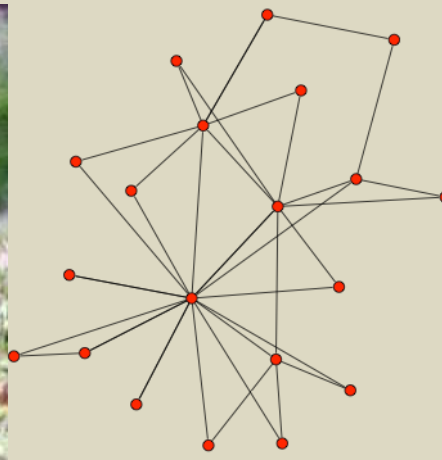


# Social networks and the spread of infectious diseases

Meggan Craft  
Department of Veterinary Population Medicine  
University of Minnesota

Jon Read & Rob Christley  
School of Veterinary Science  
University of Liverpool



# Disease ecology

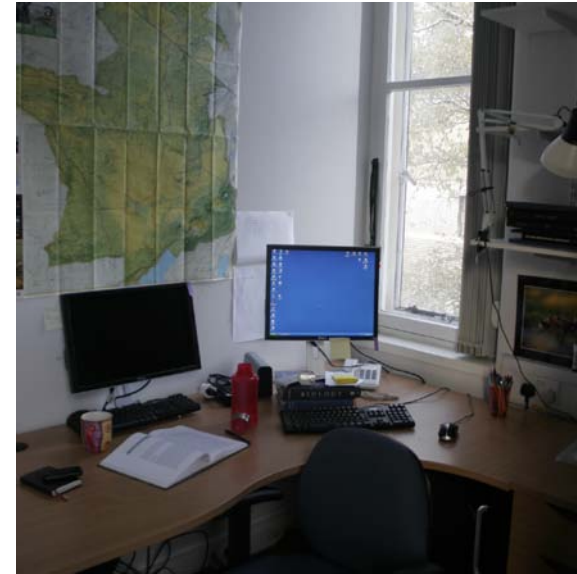


# Research program tools



Empirical data

Modeling/Theory

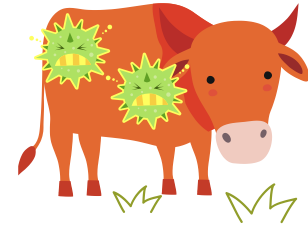


Serengeti:  
Remote conditions and realities of data

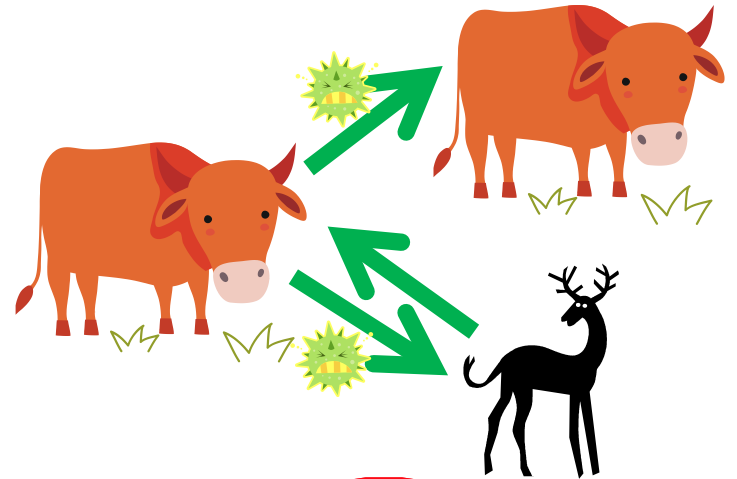
University of Glasgow:  
Theoretical ecology

# Scales of infectious disease models

Within host



Between hosts



Host in context  
of ecosystem



# Networks

1. Tools to quantify contacts in wildlife
2. Social network analysis
3. Network modeling/contact network epidemiology

P.S. Rabies contacts in dogs (Hampson et al, PLoS Biology 2010)

# SNA vs Network Modelling

- Social network analysis (SNA)
  - Statistical description of networks and their properties (structural, information flow)
- Network modelling/Contact networks
  - Using an existing or artificially generated network with which to describe contacts with transmission potential between individuals
  - Simulation of infection process upon that network
- Both can often use same data

# Contacts and the potential transmission of close-contact infections

- Host contact network determines transmission pathways available to disease
- Different transmission modes imply different contact networks, with own particular structure

**Sexual / bites**  
Few contacts  
Infrequent

**Airborne**  
Many contacts  
Clustering?

**Vector**  
Depends on  
biology of vector

- Contact networks may change through time
  - as infection progresses
  - births, deaths, migration events
  - changes in host behaviour

# How to get data on contacts in wildlife

See: [Network Models: An Underutilized Tool in Wildlife Epidemiology?](#)

## *Direct techniques*

- Behavioral observations

## *Indirect techniques*

- Biologging PIT tags/loggers (presence/absence at feeding sites)
- Biologging: proximity data loggers/collars
- Capture-mark-recapture
- Direct manipulation
- GPS recorders
- Powder marking
- Radio telemetry
- Trapping and bait marking
- Video tracking from animal's perspective
- Video trapping from fixed perspective (automated)



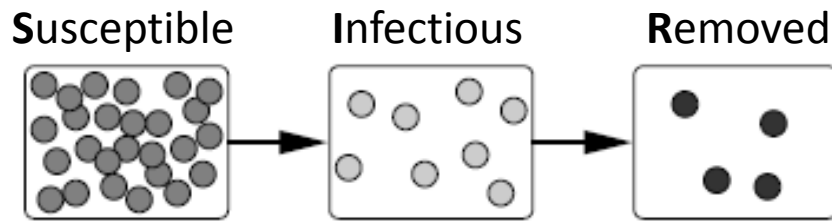
# Jon's personal experimentation

*Example – GPS tracker logging a domestic cat*



Cool data.... Neat tools  
... but what's the question??

# Network



**ASSUME HOMOGENOUS MIXING**

# But behavior really matters!

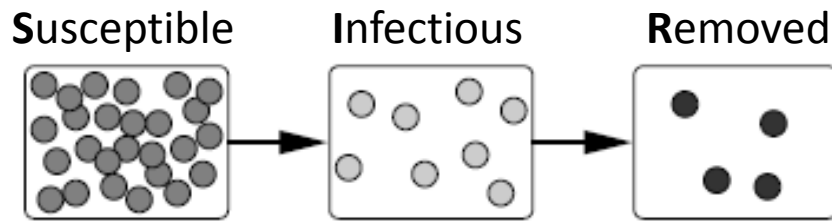
- Heterogeneous contacts
  - Spatial (cities, farms)
  - Age-structured (schools)
  - Social structure (dominance hierarchies, territoriality...)
- Superspreaders
  - Humans, e.g. SARS
  - Animals, e.g. Brushtail possums

(Lloyd-Smith et al., *Nature*, 2005)

(Porphrye et al., *Vet Res* 2008)

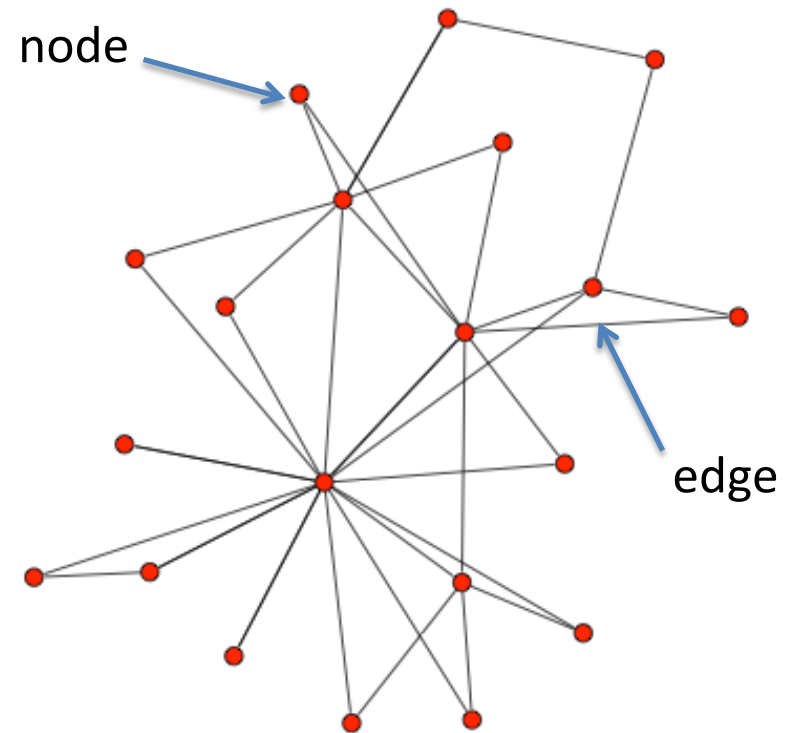


# Behavior determines contact patterns



**ASSUME HOMOGENEOUS MIXING**

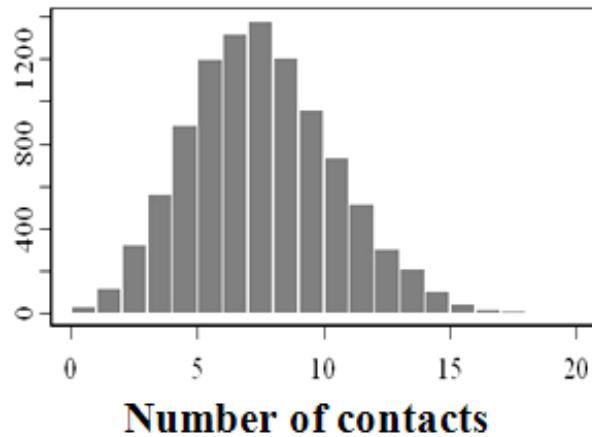
## Network model



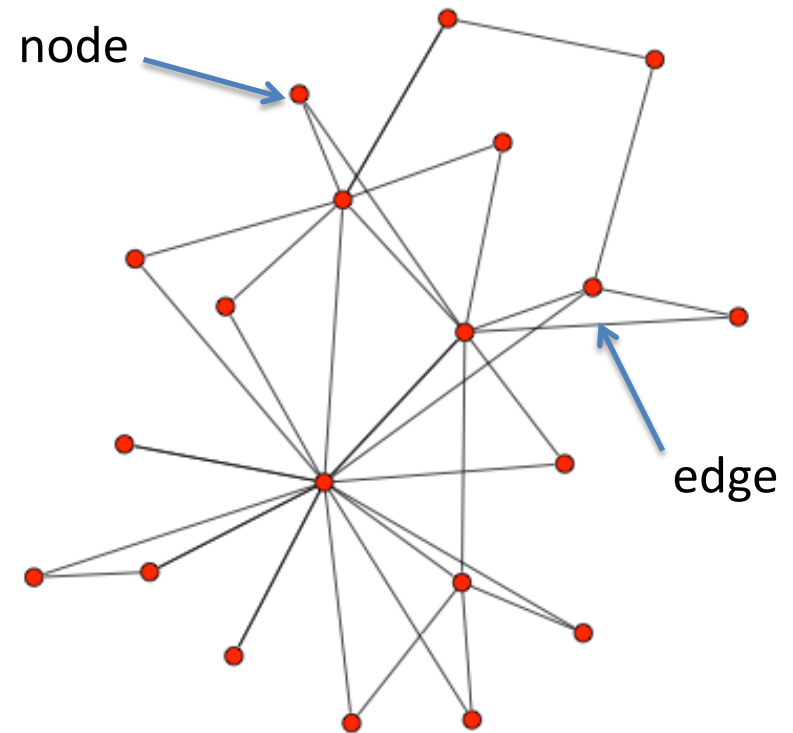
**ALLOWS HETEROGENEOUS CONTACTS**

# Behavior determines contact patterns

Degree distribution



Network model



**ALLOWS HETEROGENEOUS CONTACTS**

# Network analysis vs Network Modeling

- Social network analysis attempts to explore and understand the topology of a system
  - At the level of:
    - The network
    - Subgroups
    - Individuals
- ~~Network modelling~~
  - “Simulates” events in a system
    - ~~Formation and disintegration of links and/or nodes~~
    - ~~Transmission and diffusion~~
      - Disease, ideas etc

# Social network analysis

Data needed:

Who has contacted who over a defined period.

Data imported into network analysis software (Pajek, UCInet)

Calculate 'topology':

- Degree (mean and variation)
- Path length
- Clustering
- Centrality
- Betweenness

...are metrics by which to compare populations.

... affect rate of spread and final size of disease outbreak

# Recommended reading

- Keeling & Eames 2005. Networks and epidemic models (review).  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16849187>
- Danon et al 2010. Networks and the epidemiology of infectious disease.  
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21437001>
- James et al 2009. Potential banana skins in animal social network analysis. *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* 63, 989–997.
- Newman, M.E.J., 2003. The structure and function of complex networks. *SIAM Rev.* 45(2), 167–256.

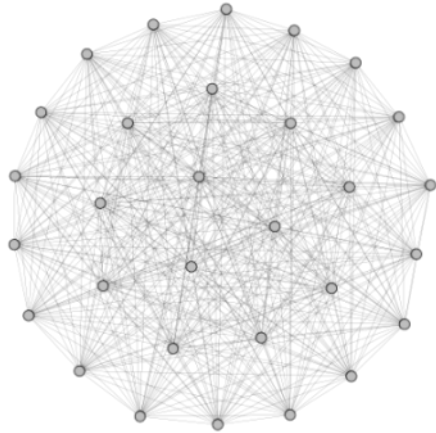


# Network analysis vs Network Modeling

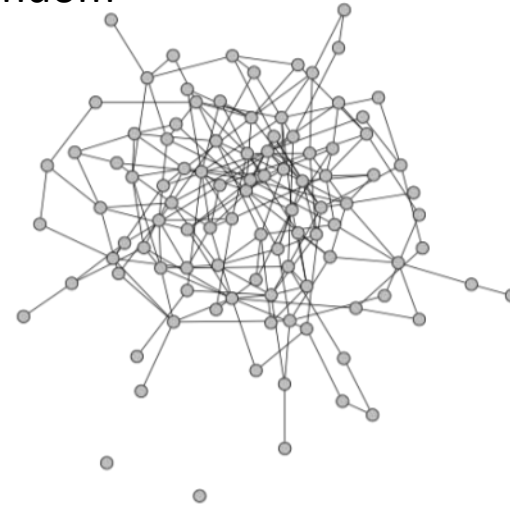
- Network analysis attempts to explore and understand the topology of a system
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    - Formation and disintegration of links and/or nodes
    - Transmission and diffusion
      - Disease, ideas etc

# Disease impacts vary with contact structure

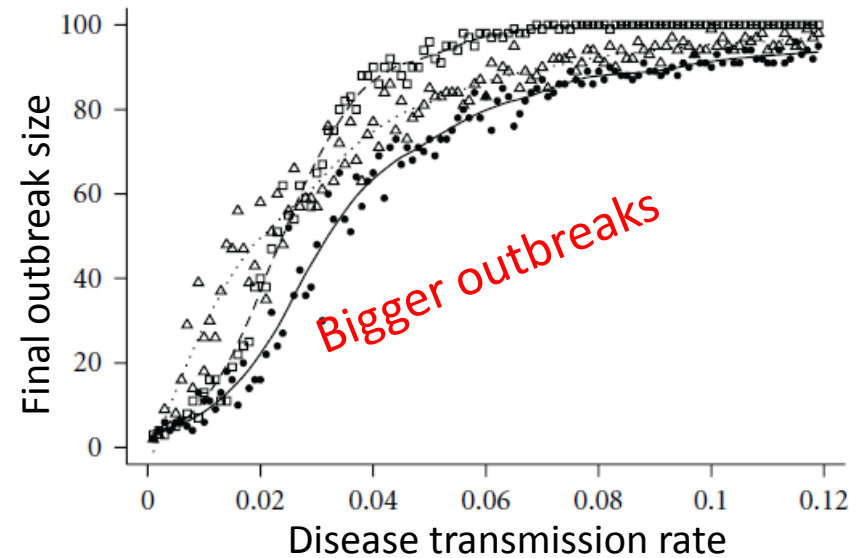
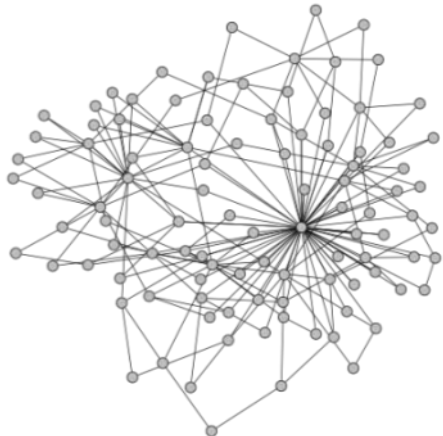
□ Homogenous



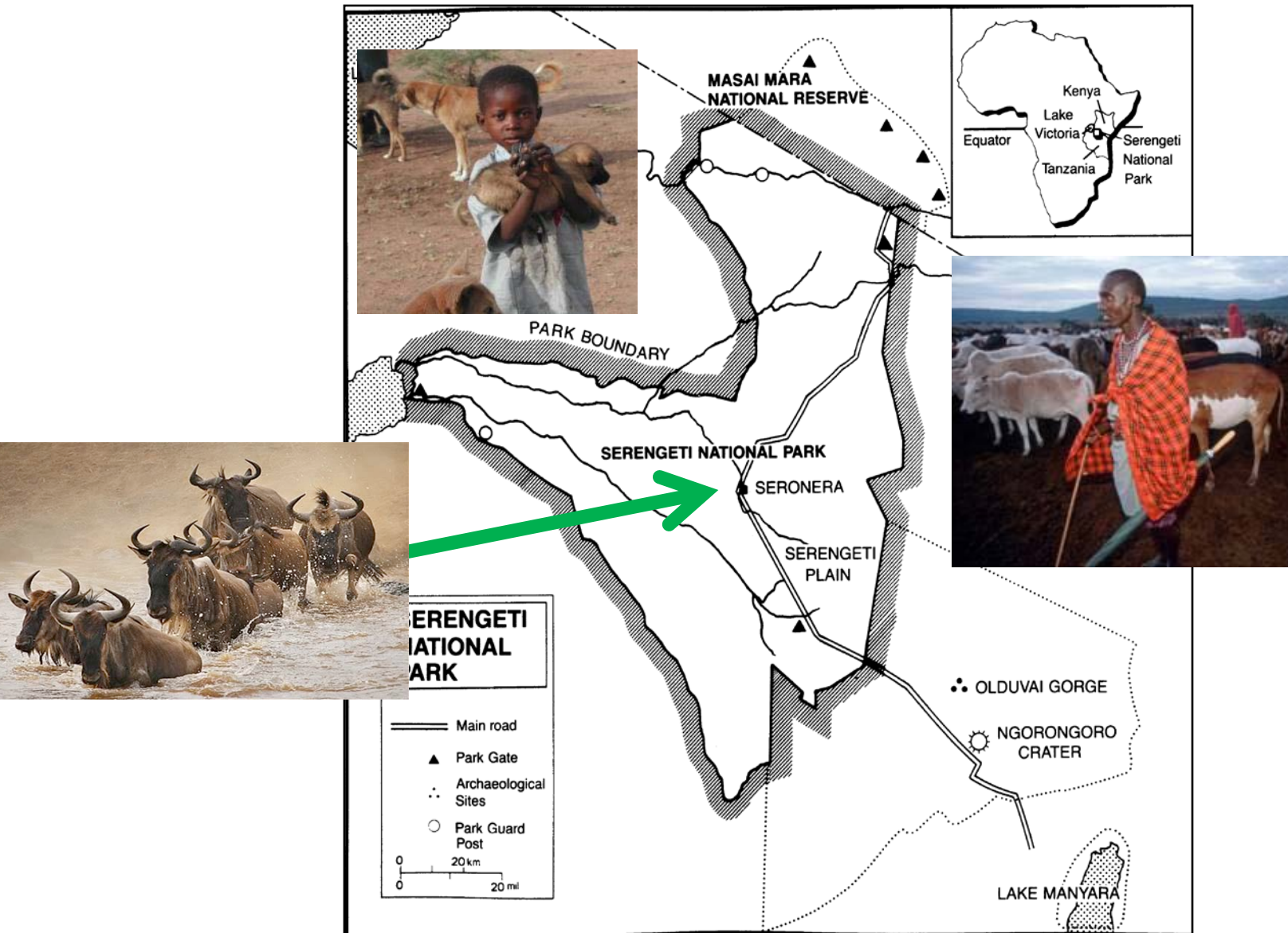
● Random



△ Superspreader



# Serengeti as a model ecosystem

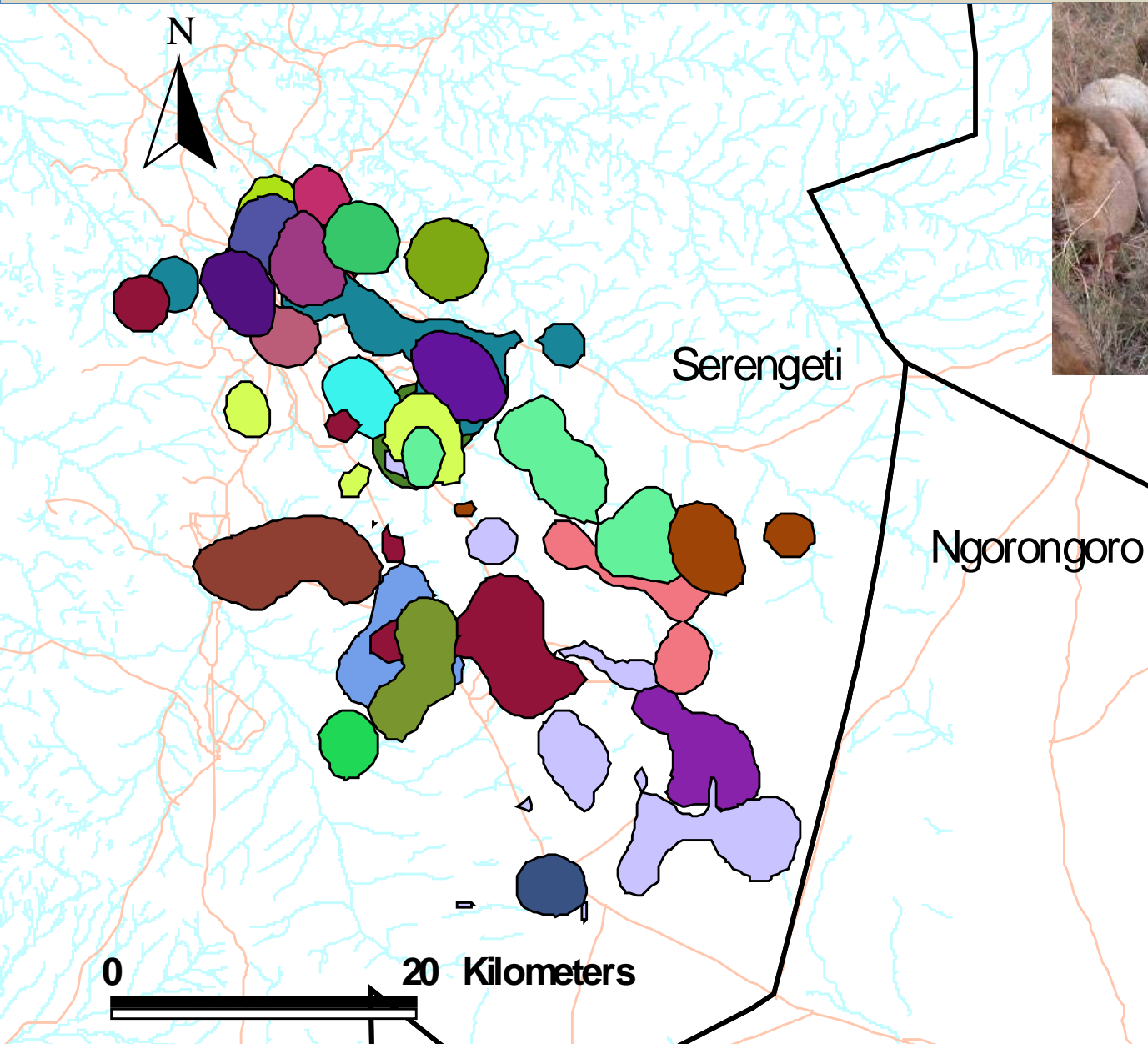


# Problem: Serengeti lions dying



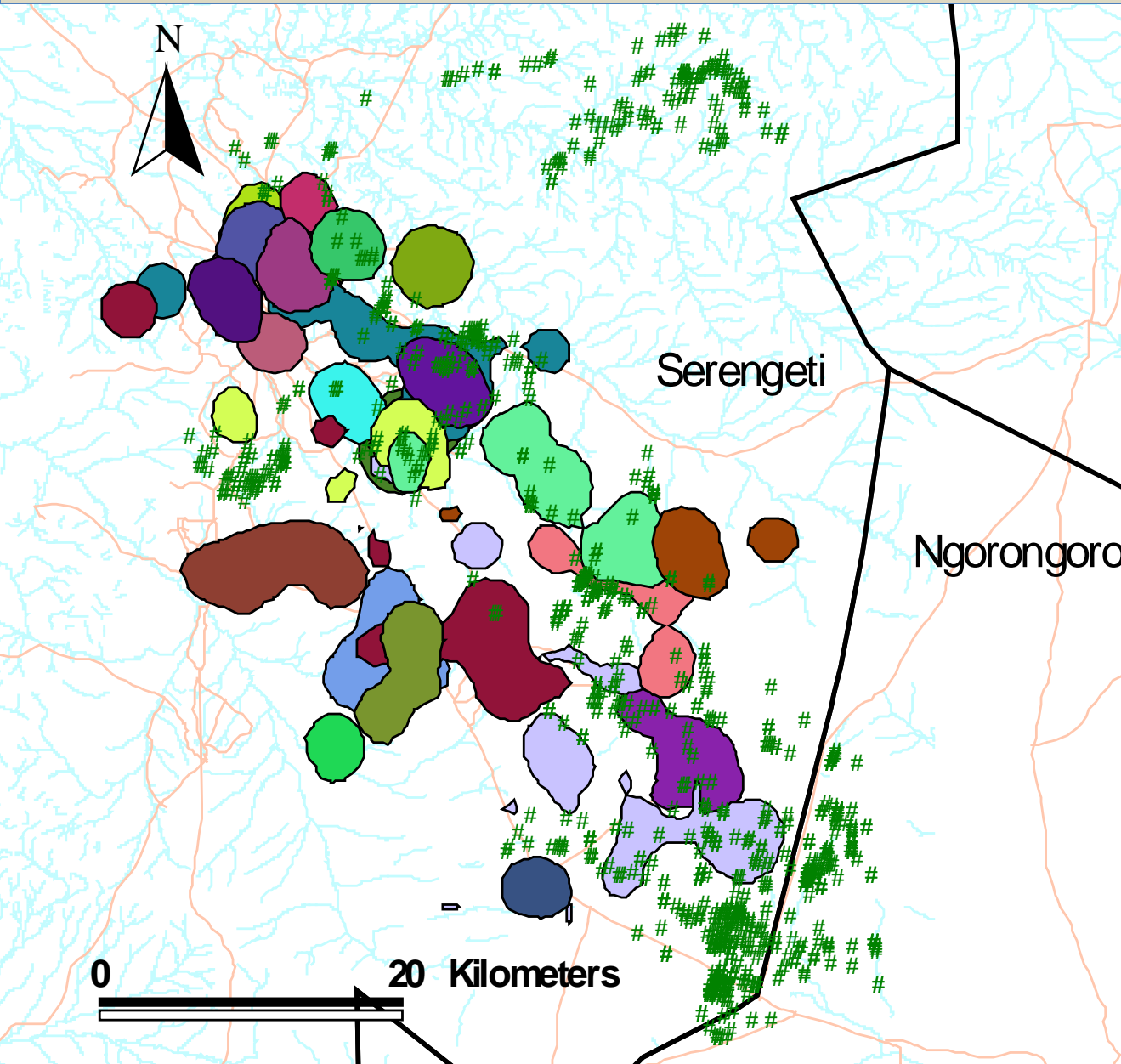
- ~1000 lions died from canine distemper virus
- Aerosol inhalation
- Other carnivores also infected
- How did this spread through lion population?

# Lion social system (prides)

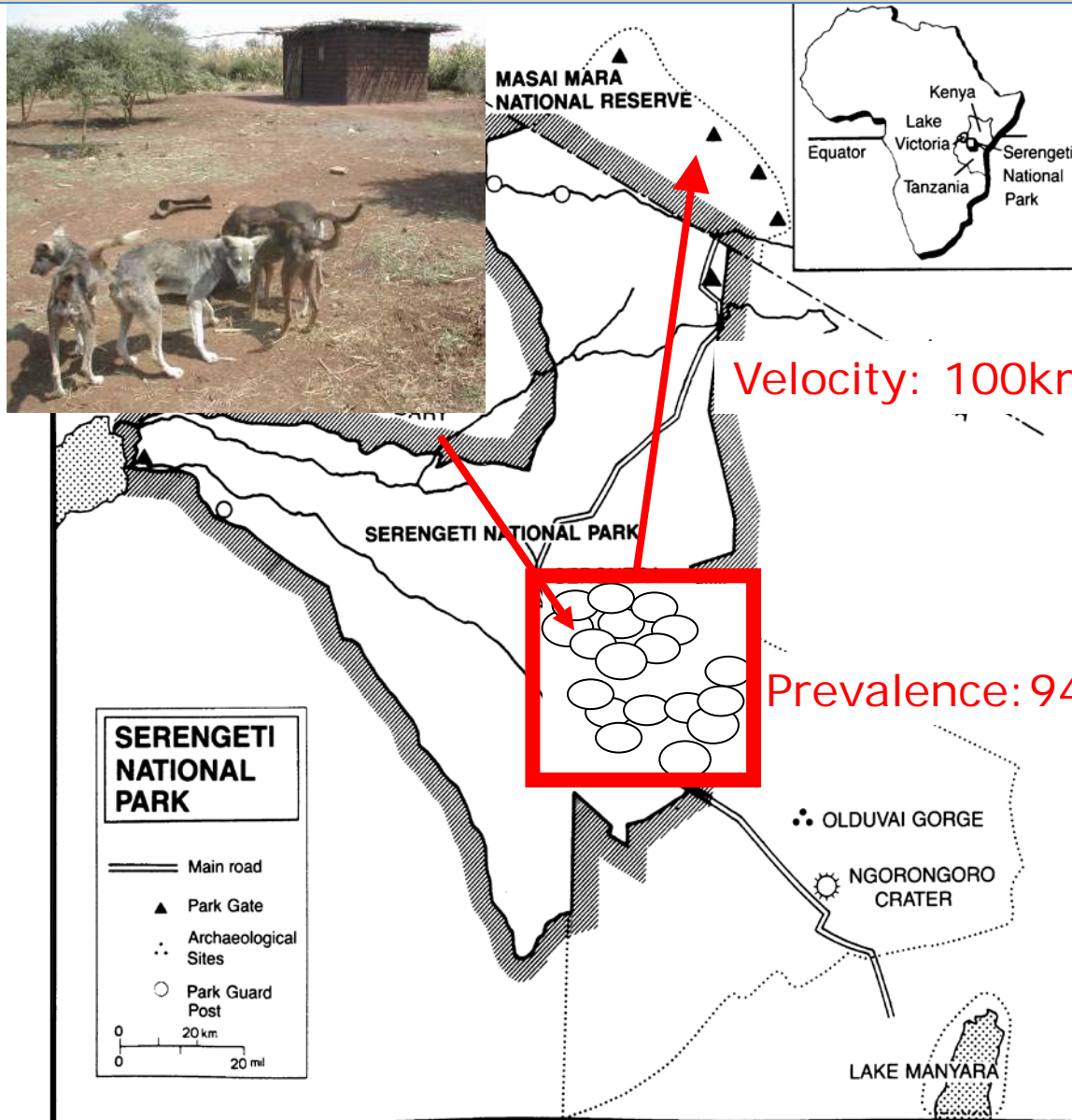




# Lion social system (nomads)

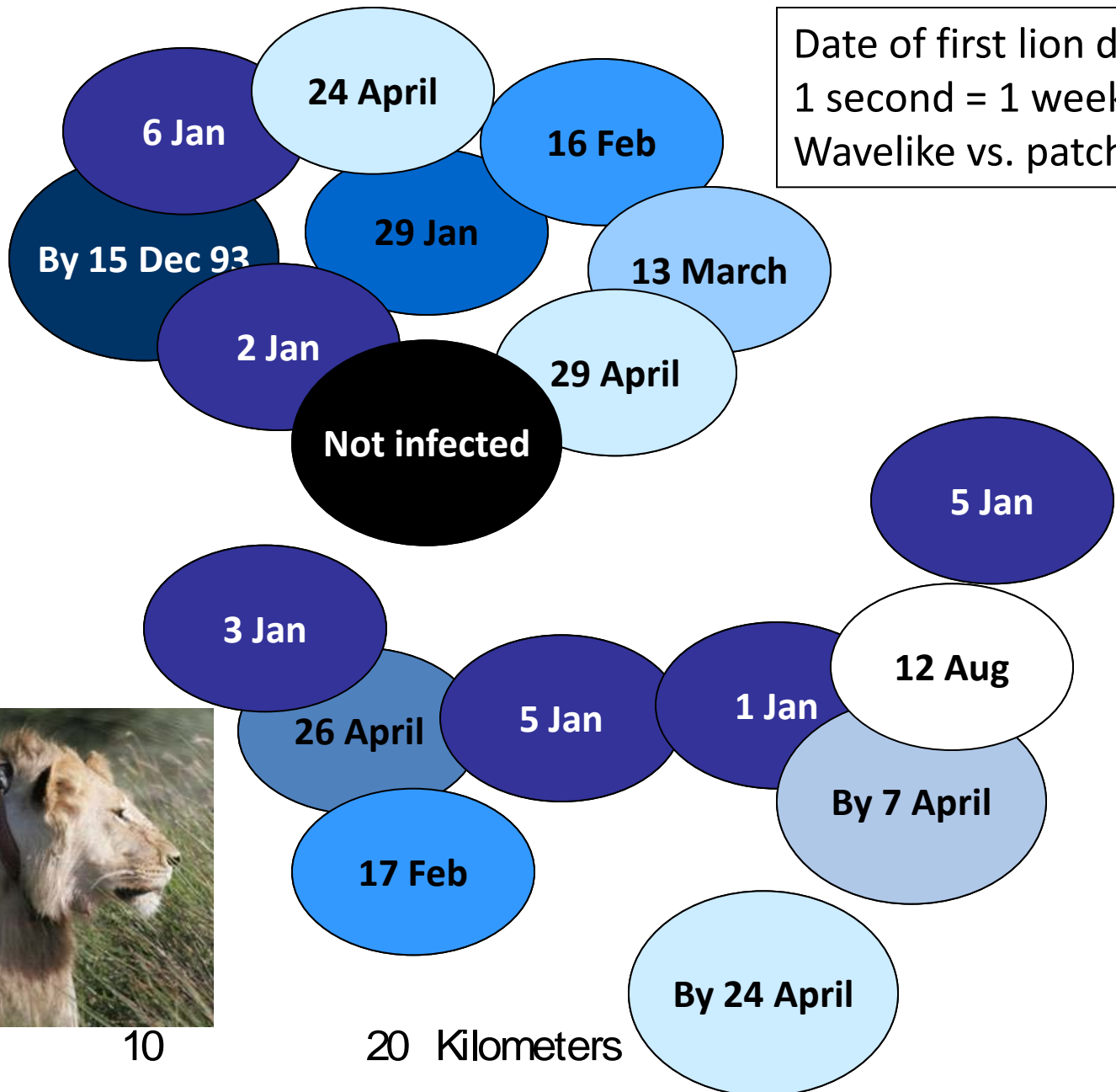


# Problem: Serengeti lions dying





Date of first lion death/case  
1 second = 1 week  
Wavelike vs. patchy spread?



0

10

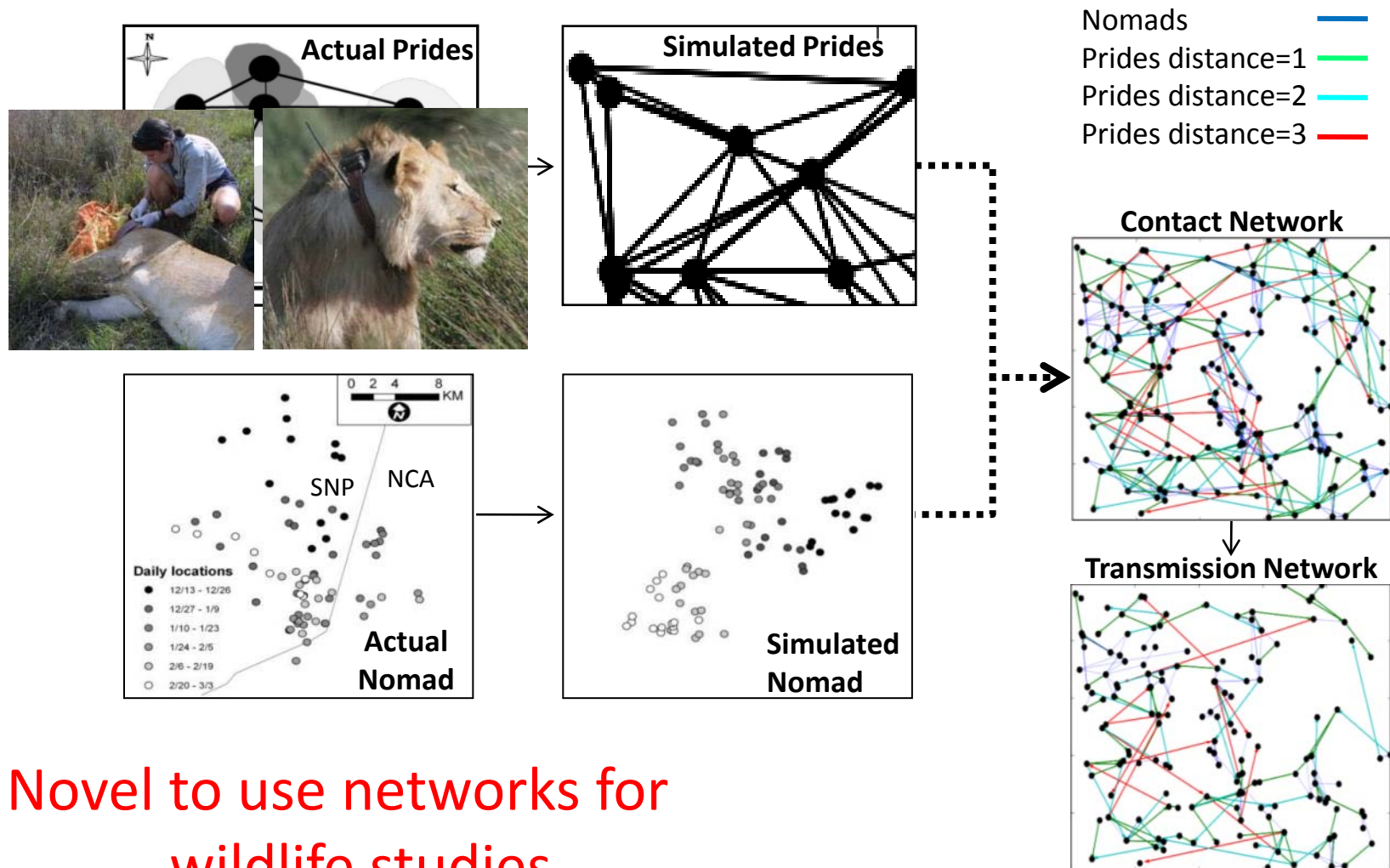
20 Kilometers



# Ask a question- then build a model!

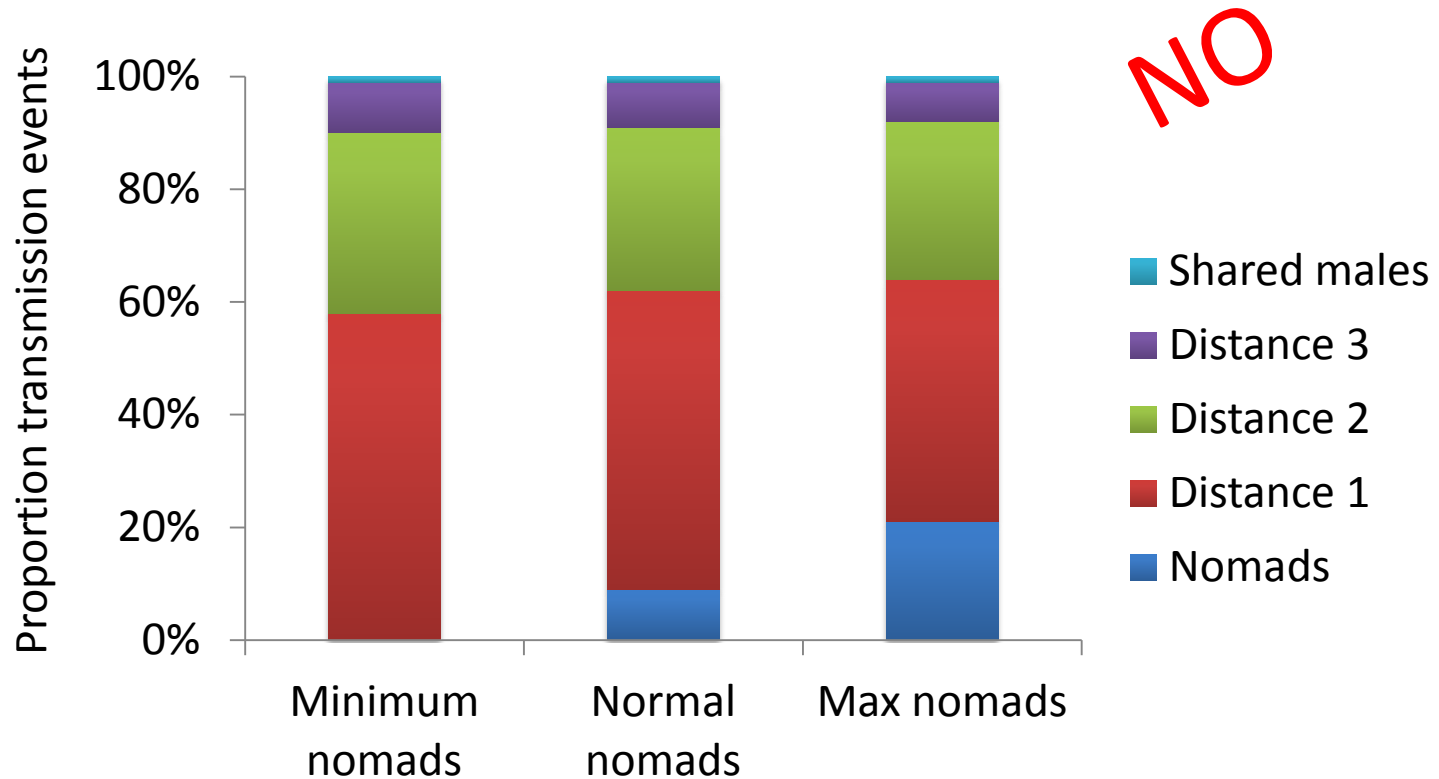
- **Are nomadic lions superspreaders?**
- **Could the 1994 CDV disease epidemic be explained by a model that includes only lions?**

# Building a network model from real data

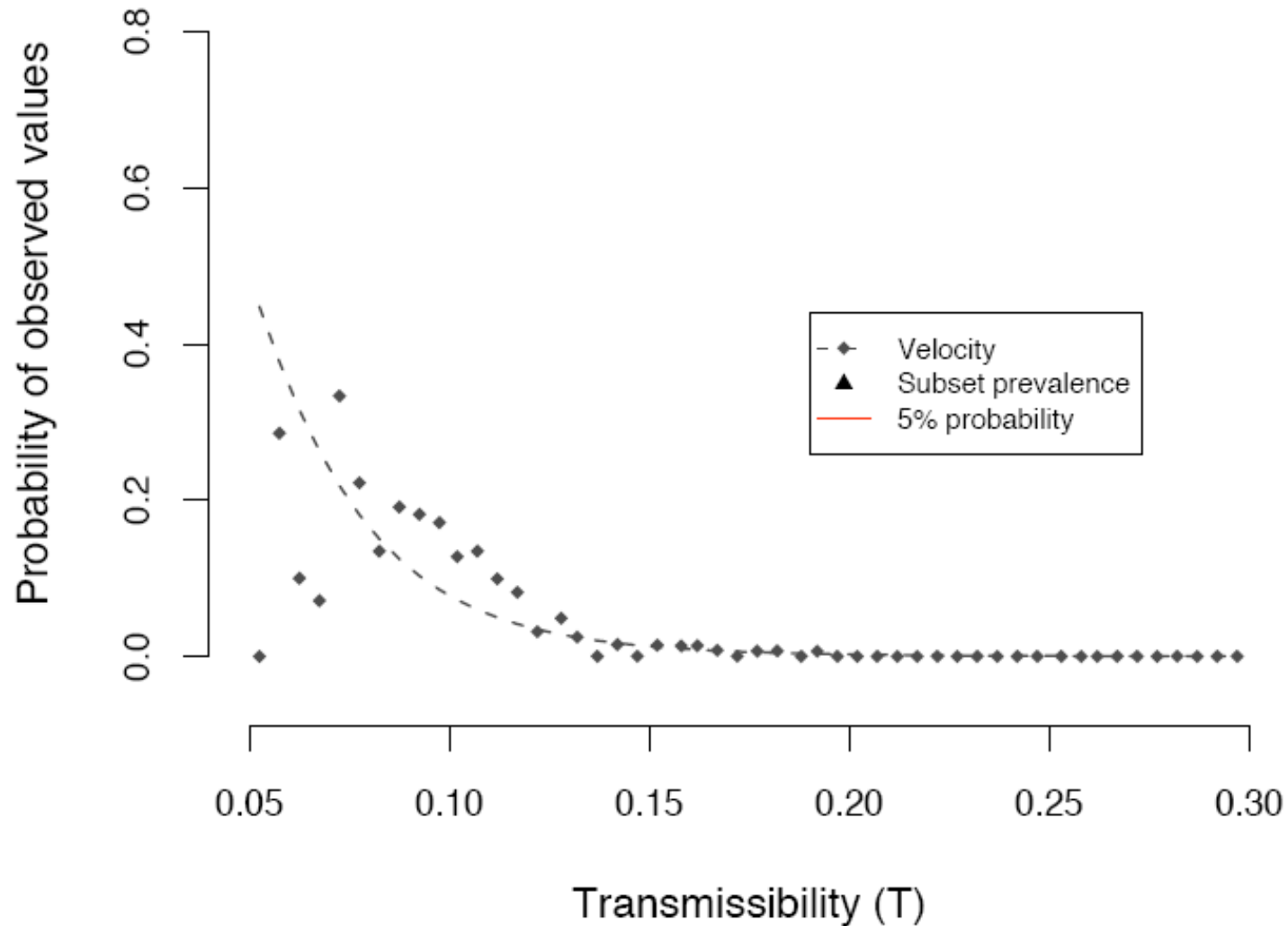


Novel to use networks for  
wildlife studies

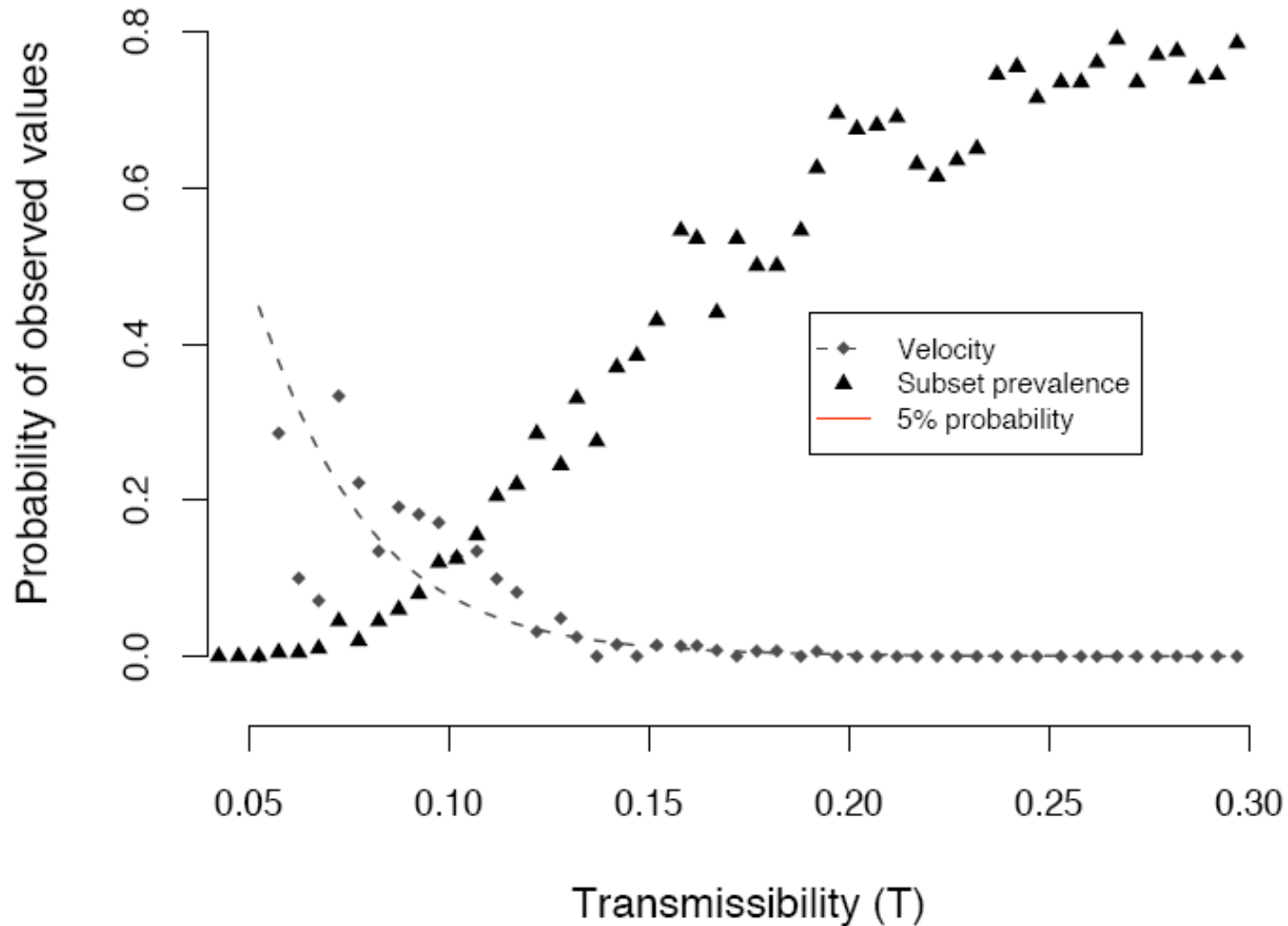
# Results: Are nomads superspreaders?



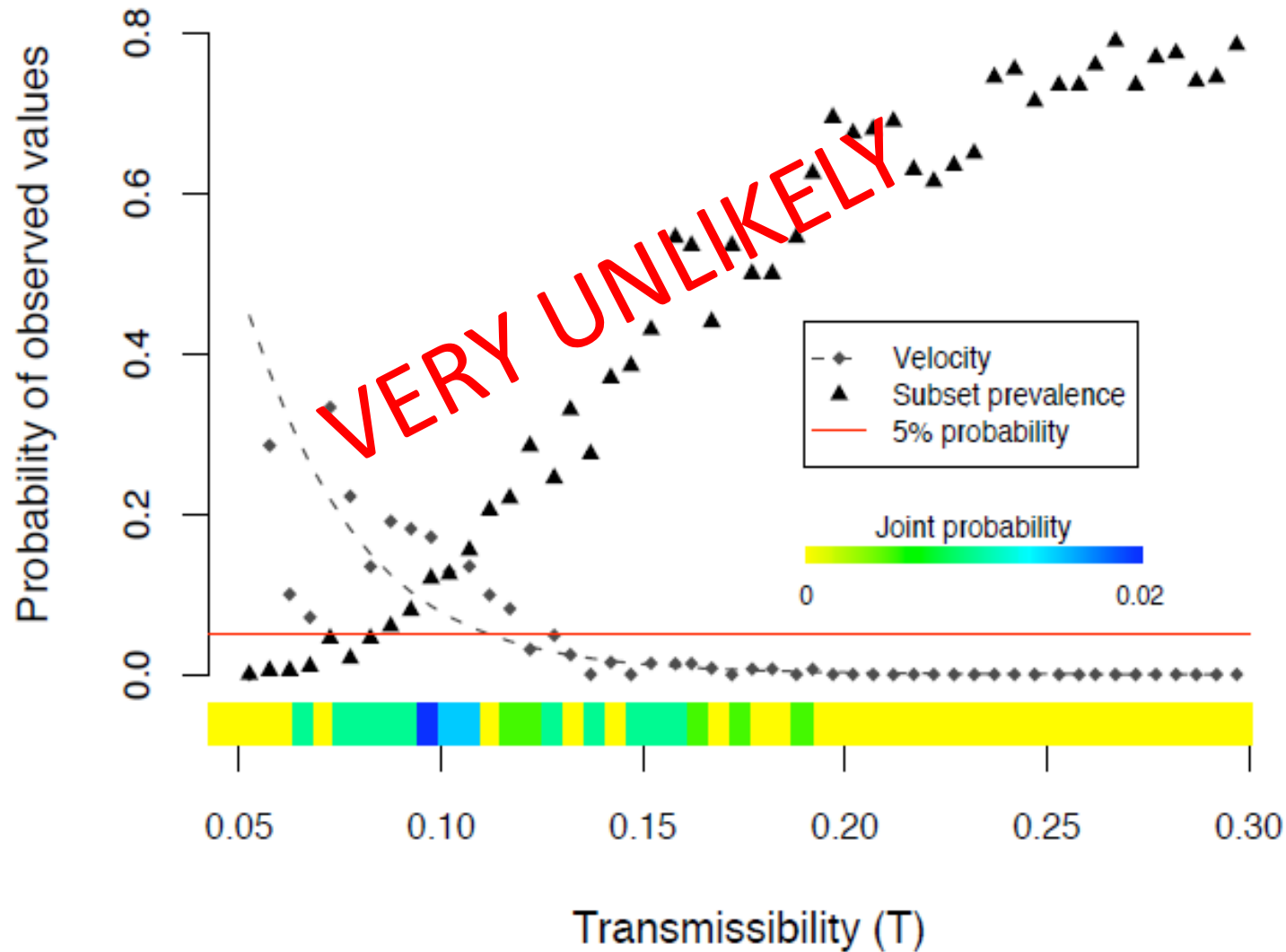
# Results: Could lion-lion transmission explain the 1994 outbreak?



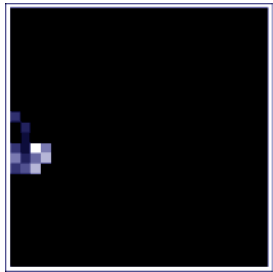
# Results: Could lion-lion transmission explain the 1994 outbreak?



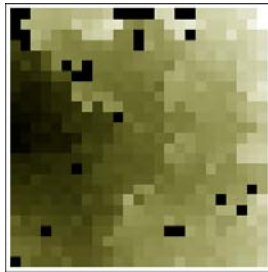
# Results: Could lion-lion transmission explain the 1994 outbreak?



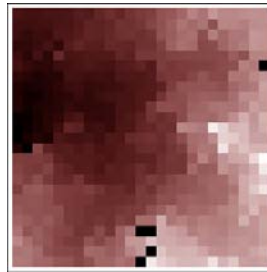
# Are wild carnivores essential to emulate the spread of CDV in lions in 1994?



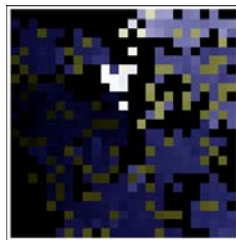
Lion



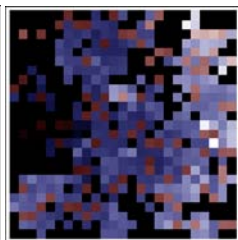
Jackal



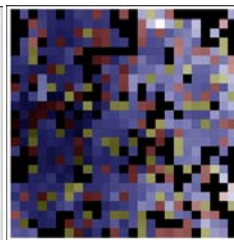
Hyena



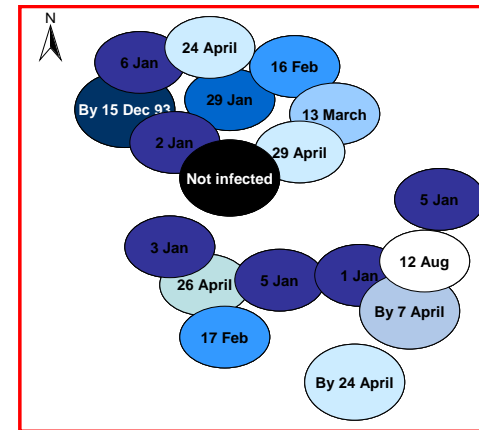
L+J



L+H



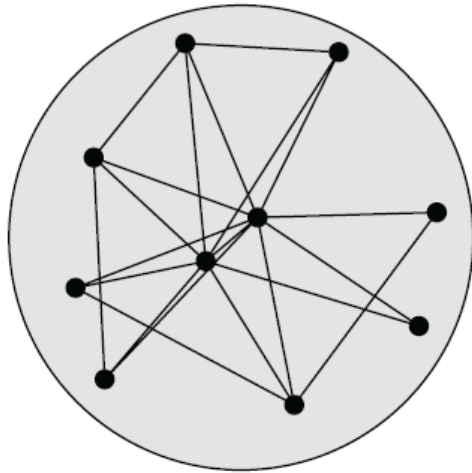
L+J+H



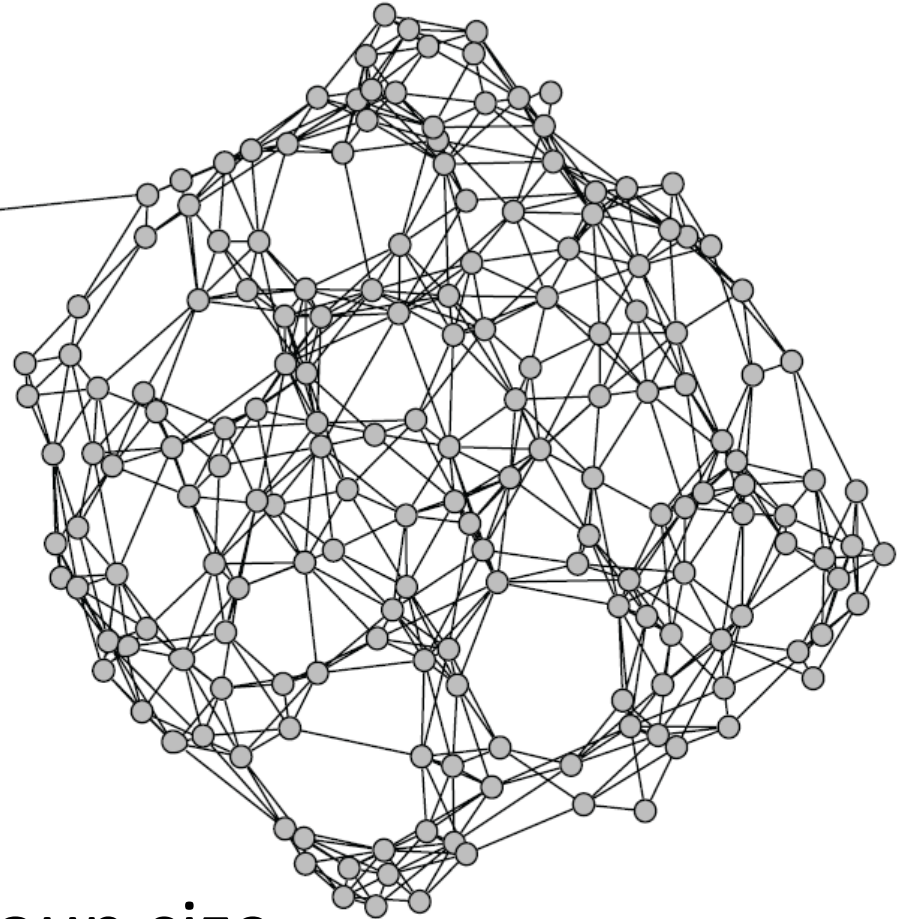
Result: Can get patchy and extensive spatial spread with multiple hosts with different social structure!

# Current work: Nested networks

Within-group



Between-group



How does variation in group size  
affect disease dynamics?



# CDV: Conclusions

- Lions likely spread diseases neighbor-to-neighbor  
(Implications for control?)
- Multiple wild hosts needed to replicate 1994 fatal outbreak.



# Final thoughts on networks

Issues:

- How to sample a network (edge effects)
- Diseases like rabies change behavior (contact networks normally collected on healthy individuals)
- Networks are realistic; but data-intensive
- 'Contacts' do not equal transmission

Are there other ways to measure transmission/interaction without contact networks?

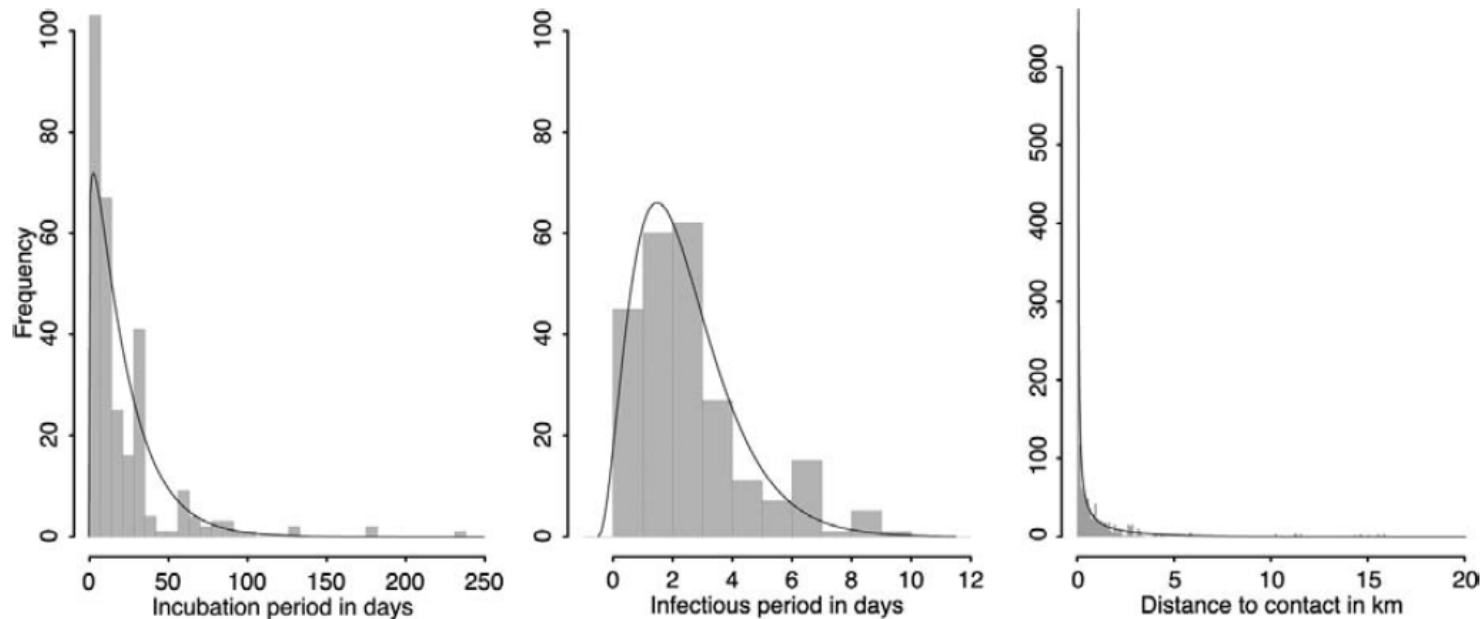
# Rabies in domestic dogs

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS BIOLOGY

## Transmission Dynamics and Prospects for the Elimination of Canine Rabies

Katie Hampson<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Jonathan Dushoff<sup>3</sup>, Sarah Cleaveland<sup>4,5</sup>, Daniel T Haydon<sup>5</sup>, Magai Kaare<sup>6†</sup>, Craig Packer<sup>7</sup>, Andy Dobson<sup>1</sup>



# Rabies in domestic dogs

**Table 1.** Epidemiological Parameter Estimates

Parameter	Estimate (95% CIs)	<i>n</i>
Incubation period	22.3 d (20.0–25.0)	288
Infectious period	3.1 d (2.9–3.4)	234
Mean generation interval $\bar{t}_{ij}$	24.9 d (23.7–26.2)	*
Mean transmission distance $\bar{d}_{ij}$	0.88 km (0.83–0.92)	1397
$P_{\text{rabies bite}}$	0.49 (0.45–0.52)	699
$R_0$ (bites * $P_{\text{rabies bite}}$ )	1.05 (0.96–1.14)	511
$R_0$ secondary cases	1.14 (1.03–1.25)	506
Time series regression: $R_{0\text{Serengeti}}$	1.19 (1.12–1.41)	—
Time series regression: $R_{0\text{Ngorongoro}}$	1.14 (0.94–1.32)	—
Tree reconstruction: $R_{0\text{Serengeti}}$	1.06 (1.04–1.10)	—
Tree reconstruction: $R_{0\text{Ngorongoro}}$	1.32 (1.26–1.42)	—





A group of hippos is shown in a body of water, partially submerged. The hippos are dark grey and their heads and ears are visible above the water. The water is a light, murky green color. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hippos in the foreground.

# THANKS

## FUNDING

- NSF International Research Fellowship
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- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Grumeti Wildlife Fund

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- University of Texas
  - Lauren Ancel Meyers, Damien Caillaud
- Princeton University
  - Andy Dobson
- University of Michigan
  - Erik Volz