

Fox Rabies Discovered on Ice Island T3

The recent discovery of both echinococcus and rabies infections in an arctic fox taken on Ice Island T3 and shipped to the Arctic Health Research Center in Anchorage for study, clearly demonstrates how animal borne diseases may be distributed over long distances, for example, Asia to North America, Canada to Greenland, etc.

Since the present position of T3 is 78 degrees N, 174 degrees, 41 degrees W, or roughly 700 miles due north of the nearest point on the mainland of Siberia, the fox had traveled at least that distance over the polar ice.

Arctic foxes regularly travel about on the ice during winter. The animal could have started out from any of the circumpolar islands or land masses some time last fall.

The fox was trapped by personnel of the permanent research station located on T3, and was shipped to the Zoonotic Disease Section, AHRC, by Dr. Max Brewer, Director of the Office of Naval Research's Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow.