**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

**Table S1.** Background information on the pathogens screened in the studied common voles, based on the best available knowledge for infections in rodents.

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| Pathogen | Mode of transmission | Infection length | References |
| *A. phagocytophilum* | Ticks | Self-limiting (4 to 8 weeks) | Jonhs *et al*. 2009 |
| *Bartonella* spp. | Hematophagous arthropods (fleas) | Self-limiting (4 to 8 weeks) | Birtles R.J. 2005; Telfer *et al*. 2007*a* |
| *B. burgdorferi* | Ticks | Prolonged persistence | Gern *et al*. 1994 |
| *C. burnetii* | Ticks | Murine rodents, used as animal models, are poorly susceptible to *C. burnetii* infection, and consequently a high dose of this bacterium is necessary to induce organ lesions. | Barandika *et al*. 2007 |
| *F. tularensis* | Arthropods, water and air | Rapid infection (5-10 days) | Rossow *et al*. 2014 ; Bandouchova *et al*. 2009 |
| *Rickettsia* spp. | Ticks, fleas, lice, mites | The epidemiology of *Rickettsia* species has not been investigated in detail, but small mammals are considered to play a role as reservoirs of the rickettsioses | Fischer *et al*. 2018 |