

ZOONOSES

Zoonosis (pronounced zoo-e-no-sis) is any infectious disease that may be transmitted from other animals, both wild and domestic, to humans or from humans to animals.

RABIES:

Rabies can be deadly to people and many species of animals. State law mandates vaccination of all dogs & cats. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats are common carriers. Rodents and rabbits are uncommon carriers. Wild animals cannot be vaccinated. There is no effective treatment for the disease. Prevention by vaccination is a must.

TOXOPLASMOSIS:

Toxoplasmosis is a protozoan disease carried by some cats. Eggs of the parasite (oocysts) are shed in the cat's feces, and then ingested by other animals (and people) causing disease. The primary concern in people is the potential for causing birth defects. Litter boxes should be changed daily and pregnant women should not be allowed to change the litter box, even though the stools are not infective until they have remained in the litter box for 48 hours or more. Ask for a specific handout on this disease.

ROUNDWORMS:

Roundworms are parasites that can migrate through body tissues and eyes in children from ingesting the eggs, which can be in the soil or pet's feces. Puppies and kittens should be routinely dewormed with the appropriate drug to control this parasite.

HOOKWORMS:

Hookworm larvae from the soil can migrate through the skin and infect humans. Signs include itchy skin and skin rashes. The parasite affecting pets will not reproduce in humans and therefore dies out without treatment unless re-infection occurs. Routine deworming of pets eliminates the potential for soil contamination.

RINGWORM:

Sixty percent of all kittens are thought to be carriers of ringworm, even though they show no clinical signs of the skin disease, which can be spread to humans. A fungal culture is recommended if clinical signs are present. All cases of hair loss in your cat should be presented to a veterinarian promptly for a definite diagnosis

GIARIDA:

Giardia is an intestinal parasite carried by dogs and cats that may possibly be transmitted to humans. The major clinical sign is diarrhea although carriers may not show any sign of the disease. Routine internal parasite tests should be performed on all pets at least once each year. This disease is commonly present in wild animals.

CAT SCRATCH DISEASE:

Cat scratch disease is a bacterial infection characterized by slight fever and enlarged lymph nodes. This disease is usually self-limiting. The most common cause is a cat scratch by a cat that has been exposed to fleas. There is no reason to euthanize a cat that has caused this problem.

PNEUMONITIS:

This disease is caused by a "Chlamydia" organism and can cause human eyelid infections (conjunctivitis). The best prevention is to vaccinate the cat and wash your hands after handling a cat.

LEPTOSPIROSIS:

Leptospirosis is a disease caused by a bacterial infection originating from wildlife that can be transmitted to both dogs and humans. This can be most commonly transmitted through contact with infected soil and drinking from rivers, lakes, streams and other areas of standing water. The best form of prevention is by vaccination.