

WORMS

ZOONOTIC DISEASE is the medical term for any disease that people can “catch” from animals.

More than 150 diseases are transmissible to people (about 1/3 of all known diseases). Preventing them is important. The main prevention strategy is nothing more than good sanitation.

Some of the most common zoonotic diseases include:

- Roundworms
- Hookworms
- Toxoplasmosis
- Cat Scratch Fever
- Ringworm
- Scabies
- Tuberculosis
- Salmonella

The National Center for Disease Control recommends that veterinarians advise their clients of the potential risk and take measures to prevent the problem.

HUMAN WORM INFECTION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- All pets should have an internal parasite test at least once / year, more frequently if worms are seen at home.
- Dogs should be given once a month heartworm preventive, which also helps control intestinal parasites.
- Pregnant women should not clean out the cat’s litter box or do any gardening (working with the hands in the soil) without wearing gloves.

DON’T PANIC: The incidence of pet to human worm transmission is very low. **CAUTION** and **GOOD SANITATION** are “the keys.”