

ANIMAL HOSPITAL OF LANESVILLE

1849 Highway 11 Lanesville, IN 47136 (812) 952-3643

Zoonotic Diseases You Should Know

By Dr. Rene Wingerter

Your pet should be your best friend, but you need to be aware of certain disease that he can spread to you and your family. This is especially important if you have children, old, ill or immunosupressed family members such as those going through chemotherapy or who have AIDS.

- **Bartonellosis (Cat Scratch Disease)**

A bacterial infection usually transmitted through the bite or scratch of kittens. Symptoms include swollen lymph nodes, fever, fatigue, headache and loss of appetite.

- **Bordetella (Kennel Cough)**

A bacterial infection transmitted through the air. Can cause severe respiratory infections in some people. Your pet can be vaccinated for this.

- **Camphylobacteriosis**

A bacteria in the stool of puppies, kittens and hamsters. Can cause abdominal pain, fever and diarrhea.

- **Chlamydiosis**

This is one of the respiratory infections that your cat can be vaccinated against. In people can cause severe eye infections.

- **Giardiasis**

This is an intestinal parasite. The greatest risk comes from drinking water contaminated by the stool of infected animals. The symptoms include stomach ache and diarrhea.

- **Leptospirosis**

This is a bacterial disease that can infect people who come into contact with an infected dog's urine. It causes fever, anemia, jaundice and stomach aches.

- **Roundworms**

Raccoon, puppy and kitten stool is the usual sources of infection. Symptoms in people include diarrhea, weight loss, blindness, coma and death.

- **Rabies**

Most frequently infects skunks, foxes, raccoons and bats. People become infected when exposed to the saliva of a rabid animal. In order to protect yourself, wash all bite wounds and report these to the health department. Do not approach wild animals or strange dogs or cats.

- **Salmonellosis**

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This is a bacterial disease that most frequently is transmitted by contaminated stool of birds and reptiles. Pet iguanas and turtles are most commonly infected.

- **Toxoplasmosis**

This is one disease that gets more attention than it may warrant when it comes to the animal transmission. Although wild and domestic animals can transmit the disease, the most common source of infection is under-cooked meat. The usual signs of the disease are flu like, and there is a risk of birth defects if a woman becomes infected while pregnant.

As a basic rule, always wash your hands after handling your pet, his stool or urine and especially be careful to wash sores. Keep your pet healthy by taking him to your veterinarian regularly for wormings and vaccinations. 🐾