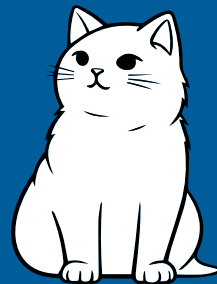




**PAWS AND PRECAUTIONS:
NAVIGATING FELINE
ZONOSIS FOR A
HEALTHY BOND**



Zoonotic Diseases are infections that can pass from cats to humans. Examples of these diseases include Toxoplasmosis, Cat Scratch Fever, and Rabies. Here is some useful information to keep in mind when talking about Zoonotic diseases.

Toxoplasmosis: Cats can become infected through water, soil, plants, or by ingesting infected animals. While often asymptomatic in cats, it can be transmitted to humans through direct contact with cat feces or outdoor areas that have been contaminated by cat feces. Pregnant women and individuals with weakened immune systems should take extra precautions to avoid cat feces *but routine hygiene practices can minimize the likelihood of transmission.*

Understanding Cat Scratch Fever, also known as Cat Scratch Disease. Cat Scratch Fever is caused by the bacterium *Bartonella henselae* and can lead to symptoms in humans such as fever, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue. While most cases resolve on their own, severe instances may necessitate medical attention. Cats usually contract *Bartonella henselae* through flea bites, where fleas serve as carriers, transmitting the bacteria to cats while feeding. Once infected, cats can carry the bacterium in their blood and saliva. To prevent Cat Scratch Fever, *it is essential to maintain regular flea control, practice proper wound care, and avoid rough interactions with cats that could result in scratches or bites. Regular flea control measures for cats are crucial in lowering the risk of infection.* Cat Scratch Fever typically occurs following scratches or bites from an infected cat.

Additional transmitted diseases from cats include Ringworm, Salmonellosis, Campylobacteriosis, and Cryptosporidium.

- **Ringworm:** A fungal infection that can spread through direct contact with an infected cat's skin or fur.
- **Salmonellosis:** When handling cat feces, humans can contract salmonella, especially if the cat is infected.
- **Campylobacteriosis:** Cats that harbor this bacteria can pass on the infection to humans, leading to gastrointestinal symptoms.
- **Cryptosporidiosis:** A parasitic infection that can spread through contact with contaminated cat feces.
- **Rabies:** a deadly viral disease that affects the central nervous system of mammals, including humans. It is primarily transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal, most commonly through bites.

Practicing good hygiene, regular veterinary care and proper handling of cats can help minimize the risk of these infections.

