

Parasite facts for pet parents!



Bring your pet's poo to the vet's office



Did you know roundworms can infect humans, even after they persist in the environment for months to years? This is one reason why regular fecal exams and deworming for your pets are essential.

This "mite" happen to your pet



Demodex mites which can cause "red mange" in puppies and in some older dogs are found in all dogs, but only some dogs will develop skin lesions and an overgrowth of the mites. This is thought to be due to a dysregulation of the immune system. Most cases in puppies will get better over time and not return. In older dogs it can be a sign of an underlying, as of yet undiagnosed, disease.

Stop bugging me



Toxoplasmosis is a coccidian parasite that can infect people and warm blooded animals. This organism is shed in cat feces.

You don't want to mess with this little guy



Roundworms can get into the GI tract of humans, but in rare cases can travel to the liver, the brain and the eyes and can therefore cause a variety of clinical signs including blindness.

Don't play with your food



Toxoplasmosis infection in people can occur by eating undercooked meat or contamination of uncooked food by cutting boards or cooking utensils or exposure to contaminated soil. Prevention of infection is attained by adequately cooking meats, good kitchen hygiene, wearing gardening gloves when gardening and thoroughly washing produce from the gardens.

So many diseases, one tiny little insect



Ticks can transmit diseases like Cytauxzoonosis, Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Some of these can affect both pets AND humans!

Wash your hands



Of all humans, children are most commonly infected by roundworms and some people estimate between 5-23% of US children have been infected with the dog roundworm. Teaching your children to wash their hands can help prevent spread.

Time is of the essence



Wearing gloves when cleaning litter boxes and changing them daily will decrease risk of catching a parasite since organisms like Toxoplasmosis need 24 hours after shedding to reach the infective stage.

Sharing is not always caring



Some dangerous diseases like Leptospirosis and worms are zoonotic. A zoonotic disease can affect multiple species like dogs and humans. This is one reason why fecals and vaccinating your pet are so important!