

# PAWS AND PRECAUTIONS: NAVIGATING FELINE ZOOONOSIS FOR A HEALTHY BOND



Zoonosis diseases are infections that can be transmitted from cats to humans. Common examples include toxoplasmosis, cat scratch fever and Rabies. Practicing good Hygiene, regular veterinary care, and proper handling of cats can help mitigate the risk of transmission.

**Toxoplasmosis** in felines is a parasitic infection caused by *Toxoplasma Gondii*. Cats can become infected by ingesting infected prey. While often asymptomatic in cats, it can be transmitted to humans through contact with cat feces. Pregnant woman and individuals with weakened immune systems should take extra precautions, as toxoplasmosis can pose risks, but routine hygiene practices can minimize the likelihood of transmission.

**Cat scratch fever, or cat scratch disease**, is caused by bacterium *Bartonella henselae*. Symptoms in humans may include fever, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue. While usually self-limiting, severe cases may require medical attention. Preventive measures involve regular flea control, proper wound care and avoiding rough play that could lead to scratches or bites from cats.

Cats usually acquire *Bartonella henselae* through flea bites. Fleas act as vectors, transmitting the bacteria to cats during the feeding process. Once infected, cats can carry the bacterium in their bloodstream, and it may also be present in their saliva. This is why regular flea control measures for cats can help reduce the risk of this. It typically results from scratch or bite from an infected cat.

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

**Ringworm:** A fungal infection that can be transmitted through direct contact with an infected cat's skin or fur.

**Salmonellosis:** Humans can contact salmonella from handling g cat feces, especially if the cat is infected.

**Campylobacteriosis:** Cats carrying this bacteria can transmit the infection to humans causing gastrointestinal symptoms.

**Cryptosporidiosis:** This is a parasitic infection that can be transmitted through contact with infected cat feces.

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