

Common Zoonotic Diseases in Cats



Rabies

- A viral disease spread through bites or saliva.
- Fatal once symptoms appear.
- Prevention: Rabies vaccination (required by law).

Toxoplasmosis

- Caused by the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*.
- Cats can shed the parasite in their feces.
- Can be a concern for pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals.
- Prevention: Daily litter box cleaning (wear gloves), handwashing, and avoiding raw diets...



Cat Scratch Disease (*Bartonella*)

- Spread through scratches or bites from infected cats.
- Can cause fever, swollen lymph nodes, and fatigue in people.
- Prevention: Avoid rough play, keep nails trimmed, and control fleas (which spread *Bartonella* between cats).

Ringworm (a fungal infection, not a worm)

- Causes circular, itchy skin lesions in pets and people.
- Highly contagious, especially in multi-pet households.
- Prevention: Prompt veterinary treatment and cleaning of contaminated areas.



Intestinal Parasites (Roundworms, Hookworms, *Giardia*, etc.)

- Spread through contact with contaminated feces, soil, or litter.
- Can cause gastrointestinal illness in people.
- Prevention: Routine parasite testing, year-round preventives, and good litter box hygiene.



Salmonella & *Campylobacter*

- Bacteria sometimes carried by cats, especially those fed raw diets.
- Can cause diarrhea and gastrointestinal illness in humans.
- Prevention: Avoid feeding raw meat and wash hands after handling food or litter.

Reducing Risk at Home



- *Wash hands after handling cats, litter, or food.*
- *Clean litter boxes daily and dispose of waste properly.*
- *Keep cats on year-round parasite prevention.*
- *Stay current on vaccinations (rabies, others as recommended).*
- *Avoid feeding raw diets.*
- *Schedule regular veterinary checkups for early detection and prevention.*



Our Commitment at PVPC

At Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic, we take a proactive approach to keeping both pets and people safe. We provide:

- *Vaccinations and parasite prevention for cats*
- *Testing and treatment for zoonotic conditions*
- *Guidance for safe litter box and home hygiene practices*
- *Support tailored to your family's health needs*



Call us today to schedule your cat's wellness exam and protect your entire household.