

Common Zoonotic Diseases in Dogs

What Are Zoonotic Diseases?

“Zoonotic diseases” are illnesses that can be passed between animals and people. While not all diseases in dogs are zoonotic, it’s important for pet owners to understand the risks and how to reduce them. Good hygiene, preventive care, and regular veterinary visits are the best ways to protect both pets and families.

Common Zoonotic Diseases in Dogs

Rabies



- A viral disease transmitted through bites or saliva.
- Almost always fatal once symptoms appear.
- **Prevention:** Rabies vaccination (required by law).

Roundworms & Hookworms



- Intestinal parasites that can be spread through contaminated soil or feces.
- Can cause serious illness in people, especially children.
- **Prevention:** Regular deworming and year-round parasite prevention.

Tapeworms

- Often transmitted when dogs swallow infected fleas.
- Can occasionally infect humans.
- **Prevention:** Flea control and routine parasite treatment.

Leptospirosis



- A bacterial infection spread through urine-contaminated water or soil.
- Can cause kidney or liver disease in both dogs and people.
- **Prevention:** Vaccination (recommended based on local risk).

Ringworm (a fungal infection, not a worm)

- *Causes circular, itchy skin lesions.*
- *Highly contagious between pets and people.*
- **Prevention:** *Prompt veterinary treatment if skin lesions appear.*



Salmonella & Campylobacter

- *Bacterial infections are sometimes linked to raw food diets or contaminated stool.*
- *Can cause gastrointestinal illness in humans.*
- **Prevention:** *Safe handling of pet food, avoiding raw diets, and good hygiene.*



Reducing Risk at Home

- *Wash hands after handling pets, food, or waste.*
- *Pick up dog waste promptly and dispose of it properly.*
- *Keep dogs on year-round parasite prevention.*
- *Stay current on vaccinations (rabies, leptospirosis, etc.).*
- *Avoid feeding raw diets that may contain harmful bacteria.*
- *Schedule **regular veterinary checkups** for early detection and prevention.*



Our Commitment at PVPC

*At **Pleasant Valley Pet Clinic**, we are dedicated to keeping both pets and people safe. Our team:*

- *Provides year-round parasite prevention and vaccinations*
- *Educates families on safe pet practices*
- *Works with you to create a prevention plan tailored to your dog and household*



Call us today to schedule your dog's wellness exam and protect the whole family.