

Zoonosis to watch: Tapeworm infection



A zoonosis (zoh-oh-NOH-sis) is an infectious disease that people can catch from animals, and vice versa. Regular veterinary visits, preventive vaccinations and medications, and good hygiene can help prevent them.

Below are details about a common zoonosis, its symptoms, how it's transmitted, and how to prevent it. Check with your veterinarian to make sure your pet is protected against this and other zoonotic diseases.

Tapeworms

Worms with a flattened, ribbonlike appearance.

Signs

Dogs & cats: Anal discomfort and itching that often results in pets dragging their hind ends across the floor

People: Most are without symptoms, but diarrhea, abdominal pain, and anal itching are possible

How it's transmitted

Dogs & cats: Ingesting infected fleas and tissue of infected animals like mice and rabbits

People: Ingesting infected fleas

People most at risk

- Children under 8 years old

How to prevent it

- Make sure all family pets receive strict monthly flea control.