#### THE CONSEQUENCES OF RISING TEMPERATURES

# One health









### One health

#### OUR HEALTH AND OUR PETS' HEALTH ARE INTRINSICALLY LINKED.

Many diseases common to cats and dogs can also be contracted by people (these are known as zoonotic diseases). **Some important examples are babesiosis, leishmaniosis and Lyme disease.** 

It is essential that we take a holistic approach to protection, considering our family as well as our pets. **This is known as a One Health approach.** 

At least 65% of recent major disease outbreaks are thought to have zoonotic origins.<sup>\*</sup> New infectious diseases continue to emerge (National Research Council [US], 2008).

# **360,000 CASES**

#### of Lyme disease across Europe





of recent major disease outbreaks are thought to have zoonotic origins

65%

\*National Research Council (US) Committee on Achieving Sustainable Global Capacity for Surveillance and Response to Emerging Diseases of Zoonotic Origin. (2008). Achieving Sustainable Global Capacity for Surveillance and Response to Emerging Diseases of

#### Zoonotic Origin: Workshop Report. National Academies Press (US). https://doi.org/10.17226/12522



# HOW CAN PEOPLE AND PETS GET THE SAME DISEASES?



The same disease pathogens that spread from parasites to **pets** can also spread from parasites to people.

This is often the case with external parasites like ticks, which can build up in woods and forests near people's homes and **target both us and our animals.** 

However, we also need to consider internal parasites like hookworm and roundworm. **These tiny creatures can be deposited in our pets' poop and pass to us when we touch them.** 

Seeing our pets affected with parasites such as fleas may also increase our anxiety and can affect the mental health of our families. **When they are not treated** effectively, a pet scratching due to fleas or a pet **without the energy to play due to parasite burden can reduce the bond between you and your pet.** 





All those factors that make vector-borne diseases a risk for animals are the same for humans. That's why veterinarians not

# only protect our animals' health, but ours and our families' as well.



#### Prof. Laura Helen Kramer

Professor of parasitology, University of Parma



### How to protect your pet (and your family)

#### TO CREATE A TRUE ONE HEALTH APPROACH, YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THIS PLAN.

#### 1. HAVING A PET MEANS TAKING EXTRA CARE WHEN CLEANING UP

Did you know that pets' faeces can harbour parasitic eggs and worms that can affect people too? **Clean out litter trays daily and be sure to use gloves and wash your hands afterwards. This minimises your risk of picking up a parasite.** Do not hesitate to speak to your vet in case of doubts.

#### 2. STICK TO YOUR PETS' PARASITE PROTECTION SCHEDULE

Lasting safety depends on regular, reliable, and routine parasite protection. **Setting up alarms and reminders on your devices can help you ensure your pets' parasite treatments are up to date.** Some vets offer a reminder service.

#### **3. REMEMBER: PARASITES DON'T TAKE A HOLIDAY**

Due to rising temperatures, parasites are staying active for longer. Some, such as fleas, don't even take a day off! **No matter the weather, you owe it to your pet and your family to protect them all year round.** 





When you come back from walks, check yourself and your pets for ticks. These sneaky parasites like to hide in your armpits, groin area, neck, head, feet and the back of your knees before going for a bite. **When it comes to pets, the ears, armpits, belly and paws are common tick biting spots.** 

#### **5. VISIT YOUR VET REGULARLY**

Regularly visits to your veterinarian for a health check-up is key to ensure your pet's well-being. They will be able provide tailored parasite protection to fit your pet's needs.

## Key Learning from this guide

The health of our pets is the health of our family. Many parasites can spread between us, so we need to **keep our entire household protected,** no matter how many legs they have.

#### TAKE THE NEXT STEPS

#### TAKE YOUR PET FOR A CHECK-UP.

This is a simple step you can take today and it could make a **massive difference to your whole family.** Your vet will be able to provide an expert recommendation, taking into account key

factors like your pet's age, breed, physical condition, geographical condition and the lifestyle they lead with you.

#### **FURTHER READINGS**

#### Diseases

What You Need To Know About Fleas, Ticks And The Other Parasites That Can Harm Your Pet When You Travel

#### **Parasites**

How Do External Parasites Threaten Our Pet's Health?

#### **Behaviour**

How Does Changing Weather Affect Your Pet?







