

# Infectious Diseases: Pets to People

Millions of Americans have pets, which include dogs, cats, fish, birds, and more. Pets, and especially dogs and cats, have been shown to improve emotional support and decrease stress in their owners.

However, like all animals, pets have a chance of carrying and transmitting infectious diseases to their owners.

Below are the diseases that our pets can spread to us and prevention strategies we can use to become from getting sick.



Dogs can transmit tapeworm, hookworm, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Salmonella, Ringworm, Rabies, and others. Transmission usually occurs via bite or scratch or from touching contaminated feces.



One of the most important diseases that over 40% of cats carry is Cat-scratch disease, which can cause exhaustion, fever, and swelling of the lymph nodes. Other diseases cats carry are pasteurella, toxoplasmosis, and rabies.



Birds can carry a host of diseases without showing symptoms themselves, one of the most important being Parrot Fever. Parrot Fever can cause chills, fatigue, high fever, and difficulty breathing, and is especially dangerous to infants, the elderly, and pregnant women.

## Prevention Strategies:



Hand washing after touching, petting, or cleaning up after your pets. This is the number one way of preventing disease spread.



Bringing your pet to regular vet check-ups is another way to prevent your pet from catching infectious diseases.



Info Taken From:  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

