

# Parasite prevention and **YOUR INDOOR CAT**

Before you decide your indoor-only cat doesn't need parasite prevention, consider these important facts.

> Cockroaches, mice and flies all can carry roundworm eggs.

Cats are natural hunters and will hunt them!

General Concepts in Zoonotic Disease Control, Lappin, 2005

> 15 percent of commercial potting soil contains roundworm eggs.

The Veterinary Record, February 18, 2006

> The Northeast has the highest prevalence of roundworms than any other part of the country.

National Canine and Feline Parasite and Vector-Borne Diseases Prevalence Survey, Blagburn et al, 2008

> Other animals in the household that do go outside—like dogs and people—can bring in different parasites that can affect the indoor cat.

> A study conducted in 2007 by the Centers for Disease Control proves that almost 14 percent of the U.S. population is infected with *Toxocara*—much higher than what was originally thought.

> The same study also states "Although most persons infected with *Toxocara* have no symptoms the parasite is capable of causing blindness and other systemic illness."

CDC, 2007

> Children and immune-compromised people, such cancer patients, people with HIV or AIDS and organ transplants, are more susceptible of being infected with these parasites.

> 40 percent of immune-compromised people have a pet at home.

Greene's Infectious Diseases, 2007

> Roundworm, or *Toxocara cati*, are prolific egg producers and are estimated to produce as many as 24,000 eggs per day.

> It is estimated that 3 million to 6 million people in the United States may be infected with *Toxocara* (roundworm) larva migrans each year.

Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) Guidelines, 2005.

> In just 30 days, 25 female fleas can multiply to more than 250,000.

Noxon J. Fleas and Flea Control. February 8, 2005.

> All it takes is one adult worm in a cat's heart to be fatal. Cats that die from heartworm can be clinically normal one hour before death.

> More than 25 percent of cats with proven heartworm infection, according to their owners, are kept indoors exclusively.

Atkins CE, DeFrancesco TC, Coats JR, et al. Heartworm infection in cats: 50 cases (1985-1997) J Am Vet Med Assoc 2000; 217:355-358.

