

# **Important Facts about your Indoor Cat**

**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% of commercial potting soil contains roundworm eggs.**

*The Veterinary Record, February 18, 2006*

**The Northeast has the highest prevalence of roundworms than any other region of the country.**

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

**Animals in the household that go outside (such as dogs and people!) can bring in parasites that can affect the “indoor” cat.**

**A study conducted in 2007 by the CDC demonstrates that nearly 14% of the US population is infected with *Toxocara*, a parasite of dogs and cats that can be passed on to humans - MUCH higher than what was originally thought.**

- **The same study also states, “Although most people infected with *Toxocara* have no symptoms, the parasite is capable of causing blindness and other systemic illness”.**

*CDC, 2007*

**Children and immune-compromised people (cancer patients, people with HIV/AIDS, organ transplants) are more susceptible to being infected with these parasites.**

**40% of immune-compromised people have a pet at home.**

*Greene's Infectious Diseases, 2007*

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

**It is estimated that three to six 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 thirty days, twenty-five female fleas can multiply to over a quarter million.**

*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 1 hour before death.**

**Over 25 percent of cats with proven heartworm infection are reported by their owners to be 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.*