

# ZOONOSES PREVENTION AROUND PETS

Pets are an important part of the family, but some diseases of animals can cause illness in people. Keep yourself, your family, and your pets healthy by remembering W.A.S.H.



# W

## WASH

# A

## AVOID

# S

## SAFETY

# H

## HEALTH

### FOR PEOPLE

#### Keep germs out of your eyes, nose, and mouth

##### Wash your hands often with soap and water

- AFTER contact with pets, pet food and treats, toys or bedding
- AFTER cleaning up poop or cleaning cages
- BEFORE contact with infants or young children
- BEFORE eating food

#### Avoid disease vectors

- Mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas can transfer diseases from animals to people.
- Avoid vector areas (tall grass, wooded areas) and peak activity times (dusk and dawn)

#### Avoid wild animals

- Wild animals can transfer diseases to your pet and to you

#### Use personal protection

- Wear gloves when cleaning items in animal areas, especially poop
- Use insect repellents and wear long sleeves and long pants when outdoors or in wooded areas

#### Prepare food safely

- Cook meats to the proper temperature
- Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating

#### Wound care

- Clean any wounds from animals promptly
- Do not let animals lick or contaminate any wounds
- Cover wounds before contact with animals

#### Stay healthy

- Keep yourself and your family healthy to prevent disease



### FOR PETS

#### Clean pet areas regularly

- Clean litter boxes daily
- Pick up pet waste in the yard weekly
- Clean and disinfect pet cages at least weekly
- Clean the lining of bird cages daily

#### Avoid disease vectors

- Have your pet checked by your veterinarian for external parasites (e.g., ticks, fleas)

#### Avoid wild animals

- Keep pets away from wild animals

#### Protect your pets from disease

- Talk with your veterinarian about flea and tick prevention products for your pet
- Keep your pet's vaccinations current

#### Keep pets healthy

- Have your pet checked each year by your veterinarian
- Do not feed pets raw meat diets; feed a well-balanced commercial diet

For more information, talk with your veterinarian and visit [www.cfsph.iastate.edu/zoonoses](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/zoonoses)