

## DISEASES PASSED FROM DOGS TO PEOPLE

The risk of disease transmission from one species to another is quite low but it is still a possibility. For people with compromised immune systems – cancer or dialysis patients or those with HIV or an organ transplant – the possibility of contracting an illness from a dog is real threat. For a person with a poor immune system, a simple lick from a dog with oral disease can lead to a human infection or a dog with Bordatella can cause human pneumonia.

Because of the intimate physical way in which many of us relate to our dogs, even the healthiest people should take precautions. At the very least, be sure to wash your hands after touching your own or other dogs, especially if you are going to eat. The ease with which humans can become infested with roundworms is a creepy example: a dog with roundworm will shed eggs in his feces but also on his coat. A person who pats that dog and then eats a sandwich without washing his hands thoroughly, will ingest those roundworm eggs which migrate to human organs or eyes, where they can cause blindness.

The following list shows the diseases on the left and the method of transmittal the right. In every case, the way to protect yourself is by thorough hand-washing (except in the case of rabies where vaccination is a necessary reaction and scabies in which the mites have to be eradicated).

<u>DISEASE</u>	<u>FROM/BY</u>
Bordatella	feces
Diarrhea (bacterial)	feces
Giardia	feces (parasite)
Leptospirosis	urine
Rabies	saliva

Ringworm

skin (fungus)

Scabies

skin (mites)