

# PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND PETS

# FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS WARNING



**There have been more human cases** of flea-borne typhus in the last five years than in the last 50 years combined.

**Humans are infected** with flea-borne typhus by the common flea.

**Protect your family** by using flea control products on your pets to prevent this serious health threat.



For further information, please contact the Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services, Vector Control

Program at 562-570-4132 or visit us at

[www.longbeach.gov/health/eh/vector/default.asp](http://www.longbeach.gov/health/eh/vector/default.asp)



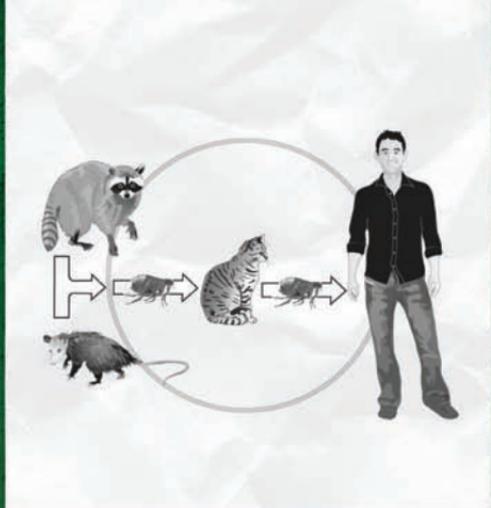
## HOW YOU GET THE DISEASE

Typhus bacteria is transferred to humans usually as the result of flea bites. Infected fleas have the bacteria in their feces and will often defecate while biting and feeding. When people scratch the flea bite, they can allow some of the bacteria in the flea feces to enter the blood stream. People can also become infected by transferring the bacteria to their eyes, nose or mouth.

## PREVENTION

The disease is transmitted by the common cat flea which can be found on opossums, raccoons, skunks, feral and domestic cats, dogs and other mammals. To reduce exposure to fleas, follow these guidelines:

- Remove pet food and other outside food sources
- Cover garbage containers
- Trim vegetation around buildings to discourage wildlife and to eliminate places animals can hide
- If you see dead opossums, cats or other animals on your property, call your local Animal Control/Care agency.
- Keep pet cats indoors as much as possible and consult your veterinarian about flea control products



## SYMPTOMS

Symptoms begin one to two weeks after exposure and include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Body aches and pains
- Rash on chest, back arms and/or legs

## IF THESE SYMPTOMS OCCUR, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION.

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