

# WARNING

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR PETS



## FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS ALERT

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

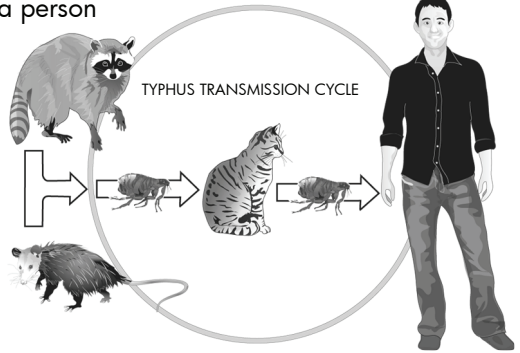
Humans are infected with flea-borne typhus by the common flea.

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

For further information, please visit:  
[www.ocvcd.org](http://www.ocvcd.org) (714) 971-2421  
[www.ochealthinfo.com](http://www.ochealthinfo.com) (714) 834-8180

# HOW YOU GET THE DISEASE:

Typhus bacteria are 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 a person scratches the flea bite, he/she 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 your exposure to fleas, follow these guidelines:

- Remove pet food and other outside food sources
- Cover garbage containers
- Trim vegetation around buildings to discourage wildlife
- If you see dead opossums, cats or other animals on your property, call your local Animal Control 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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